THE Valley INDEPENDENT
An Edition of the TRIBUNE-REVIEW

Brawl on national stage
The stage has been set for the 2008 rendition of Backyard Brawl. **3B**

Event marred
A large pilgrimage to the Iraqi city of Karbala has been marred by violence. **5A**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2008 RELEVANT, RELIABLE WWW.VALLEYINDEPENDENT.COM 50¢

INSIDE TODAY

Valley Profile
The Cal U campus is much greener these days thanks to a new professor. **3A**

Workers want out
Westmoreland County Court workers want to leave their union. **3A**

Hearings waived
Three Valley residents arrested during a federal warrant sweep last week have waived their rights to preliminary hearings in Pittsburgh. **5B**

SPORTS

Gorzelanny

Snell

Pitchers picked
Heading into the Grapefruit League season and beyond, the Bucs are looking to pitchers Ian Snell and Tom Gorzelanny. **1B**

Edwards wins

Carl Edwards' victory in the Auto Club 500 is a sign his team is ready to take on Hendrick Motorsports. **1B**

DEATHS

- Frank Bitonti, 75, Belle Vernon
- Salvatore "Sam" Butera, Charleroi
- Joyce A. Griffith, 47, Monessen
- George Parish, 81, Finleyville
- Rev. Dr. John Roberts Rankin, 76, Brownsville
- Jeane Shaporka, 59, Uniontown, formerly of California, Pa.
- Sarah Stein, 78, Monessen
- Michael Sulich, 78, Monessen

Page 4A

WEATHER

Tonight
Snow 18°
Tomorrow
Snow 20°
Page 2A

INDEX

Celebrity Cipher	6B
Classified	8-10B
Comics	4B
Dear Abby	8A
Deaths	4A
Health	7A
Lottery	5A
News Roundup	5A
Opinion	6A
Sports	1-3B
Television	8A

Two sections, 18 pages

TOMORROW

Read Valley Business, a regular Wednesday features in *The Valley Independent.*

©2008 The Valley Independent

6 47397 60440 6

Latkanich sues township

The Washington Township supervisor claims her health coverage has been reduced.

For The Valley Independent

A Washington Township supervisor has filed a civil lawsuit seeking to have her health benefits through the township fully reinstated.

In the civil suit filed Monday against the Washington Township board of supervisors, Joanne Latkanich indicated she was notified Jan. 15 that the township is changing her health benefits.

According to the suit, under the new plan, Latkanich's benefits through the township have been cut back. In lieu of full benefits, she will receive $250 to be put toward health insurance that she will have to procure on her own.

Latkanich's attorney, Samuel J. Davis, contends the change is improper because the state constitution prohibits any "increase or decrease" in a public officer's salary, or other benefits, after his or her election or appointment.

In a letter to township Solicitor Donald McCue, Davis said that rule was created to prevent "political vendettas."

In the letter, he pointed out that one of the supervisors who voted in favor of the changes, Chuck Yusko, was involved in an altercation with Latkanich's son, Michael Latkanich.

In September, Michael Latkanich was ordered to serve one-year probation for punching and kicking Yusko outside the township fire hall on Oct. 13, 2005.

Latkanich purportedly believed Yusko had called his mother a "pig" and a "thief." During trial testimony, Yusko denied making those comments.

Michael Latkanich has since lost his job with the Washington Township Municipal Authority.

Attempts to reach Yusko were unsuccessful yesterday.

Contacted at home, Supervisor Jamie Miller said McCue recommended she not comment on the lawsuit.

According to documents filed with the civil complaint, Joanne Latkanich is off work for undisclosed medical reasons.

Transit ridership grows as gas rises

Mid Mon Valley Transit has received requests for expanded service.

By CHRIS BUCKLEY
Staff Writer
cbuckley@tribweb.com

A popular advertising campaign by the national bus line encouraged riders to "Go Greyhound – and leave the driving to us."

With the rising price of fuel, more commuters are leaving their cars at home and using transit to travel to work and popular shopping areas.

Ridership locally is up 1 percent systemwide, said Valerie Kissell, executive director of the Mid Mon Valley Transit Authority.

In addition, the transit authority has been inundated with requests to add or expand service, Kissell said.

"The outcry is clearly fuel," Kissell said.

One area is for MMVTA to provide service to county seats in Washington, Pa., and Greensburg, Kissell said.

A group of residents who work in Washington and van pool to the county seat sent a letter to the authority asking for service to that city. Currently, the MMVTA's only service outside the Valley extends along Route 88 through a portion of the South Hills into the City of Pittsburgh.

The authority has received requests to extend two other service runs – its loops in Donora and the Rostraver Shopping Plaza. One proposal would be to extend service to the Gabriel's shopping plaza on Finley Road in Rostraver.

Kissell said, though, that the authority is waiting until after the Finley Road widening project is complete to consider service to that area.

Because of the Finley Road project, traffic is limited to one lane traveling away from Route 201.

The authority has been asked to consider extending bus service to Willow Pointe in Rostraver Township, where a new Social Security office is being planned. The closest bus stop in that area is the Rostraver Shopping Plaza.

Each of the requests for more bus runs has come from residents, not public officials, Kissell said.

These requests will be examined,

(See TRANSIT, Page 2A)

Guy Wathen/For The Valley Independent

Angela Betton, of North Versailles, embraces Norman Madison, of Monessen, before a memorial service for 13 members of the 14th Quartermaster Detachment in Hempfield who were killed in a 1991 Scud missile attack during Operation Desert Storm. Betton was wounded in the attack. Madison's son, Spc. Anthony E. Madison, was killed.

Pain endures 17 years after Scud claimed son

Anthony E. Madison was among 29 soldiers killed in 1991 barracks blast in Kuwait.

By A.J. PANIAN
For The Valley Independent
apanian@tribweb.com

HEMPFIELD TOWNSHIP – Tears streaked Norman A. Madison's face Monday as he recalled the day in 1990 that his late son, Spc. Anthony E. Madison, joined the Army Reserve's 14th Quartermaster Detachment in Hempfield.

"I still hurt all over inside," said Madison, 70, of Monessen.

Madison – then a supervisor at the nearby Rehabilitation Center Workshop – encouraged his 27-year-old son to get a job with the water purification unit after his honorable discharge as an Army staff sergeant earlier that year.

"I used to drive past the detachment building every day, so one day I asked what they do because (Anthony) was looking for work," said Madison, a former Marine who served in the 1983 invasion of Grenada. "Tony ended up here. He loved the people and the work, and I brought him back and forth every day."

When President George H.W. Bush initiated Operation Desert Storm, and the U.S. military entered the Persian Gulf to drive invading forces led by Iraq President Saddam Hussein from neighboring Kuwait.

On Feb. 19, 1991, the 14th Quartermaster arrived in

(See PAIN, Page 2A)

Guy Wathen/For The Valley Independent

Kelli George, of Finleyville, wounded in the 1991 Desert Storm attack, touches the monument to fallen soldiers Monday at a memorial service in Hempfield Township.

National biker event expected to attract thousands to Westmoreland

By JENNIFER REEGER
For The Valley Independent
jreeger@tribweb.com

The Westmoreland Fairgrounds will be home to another kind of hog this summer.

The National Bikers Roundup, an annual gathering of black motorcyclists from throughout the country, will be held at the fairgrounds in Mt. Pleasant Township from July 30 to Aug. 3.

"You're going to have hogs there, but you're going to have the two-wheeled kind, not the four-legged kind," said Billy Walker, chairman of the roundup.

The event, in its 31st year, will bring 20,000 to 25,000 bikers from around the country to the 170-acre facility over five days.

Walker said the event changes location every year. It's the first time it will be in Pennsylvania.

Concerts, Harley-Davidson demonstrations, games and seminars will be part of the event, Walker said.

The bikers conduct a drive every year to benefit local food banks.

"All food and money we collect is left within the community," Walker said. "You'll find this is the most friendly and family-oriented event."

Westmoreland Fair Secretary Jennifer Jackovitz said the event is an example how the fair board is finding ways to utilize the

(See BIKER, Page 2A)

VALLEY PEOPLE

Killer bees evolving

The Africanized bees are interbreeding with domestic counterparts.

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON – When marauding Vikings decided to settle down they usually "went native," marrying local girls and blending in. Invading honey bees may be doing the same.

The invasion of new bee populations has attracted attention in recent years with the spread of so-called Africanized, or "killer bees" moving north from South America.

When a new strain of bees invades a region already populated by honey bees, they interbreed and gain benefits from the genes of their predecessors, researchers report in this week's edition of Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Charles W. Whitfield, an assistant professor of entomology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign studied the genes of bees in Africa, Europe, Asia and the Americas, focusing on regions where several bee invasions have occurred, such as Brazil and South America.

Whitfield's team found that when invading bees were interbreeding with those already present, the combined genes were not just joined randomly.

"We asked the question: Is hybridization an essentially random process?" co-author Amro Zayed said in a statement.

When the African honey bees mated with the western European honey bees that had been in South America for centuries, one might expect that the hybrid offspring would randomly pick up both the functional and nonfunctional parts of the genome, he said.

"But actually what we found was there was a preference for picking up functional parts of the western European genome over the nonfunctional parts."

This combination seemed to give the newcomers an advantage over their predecessors, though the researchers were not able to determine exactly how the new bees benefited.

Yesteryear

Head coach Frank Janosik, center, is surrounded by Monessen High School's varsity basketball regulars for the 1956-57 season. The players, from left, are Joe Kurey, Maurice Mathieu, Carl Crawley, Frank Crisi, John Bogovich and Richard DiBiaso. Kurey was recently elected to the Mid Mon Valley All Sports Hall of Fame, and Crawley, Janosik and DiBiaso are already members of the Hall.

Weather

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
High 20 Low 12	High 30 Low 20	High 38 Low 25	High 38 Low 22	High 45 Low 30

Biker (FROM PAGE ONE)

fairgrounds.

"We're always looking to attract big events here at the Westmoreland Fair," Jackovitz said. "We have a lot to offer here. We're kind of tucked away in the countryside, and until you see it, you just can't believe it."

Other than the annual fair, the facility has been used to host everything from arts and crafts festivals and the Overly's Country Christmas light display to the Rolling Rock Town Fair, a rock concert staged for several years at the site.

The first of those concerts, held in 2000, drew the ire of some neighbors, including Westmoreland County Judge William J. Ober.

In a lawsuit, Ober and his neighbors claimed that fair board members were turning the fairgrounds into a year-round venue and that events, including the concert, were creating a nuisance that was affecting the rural character of the area. The lawsuit was later dropped.

Ober did not return a call for comment Monday.

Jackovitz said the anticipated crowd of 25,000 during the course of the bikers' event would equate to a typical fair crowd.

And she said the event won't interfere with the Aug. 15 opening of the Westmoreland Fair, even though the bikers' event ends less than two weeks prior.

"That doesn't worry us," she said.

Transit (FROM PAGE ONE)

Kissell said. The authority must determine if it has sufficient vehicles to provide added or expanded service. In addition, it must be determined if changes are cost-effective.

Any expansion or addition of runs must be approved by the authority board. There is no timeline for deciding to expand service. But then, the rising cost of fuel is an issue that is likely to remain.

One recent expansion has proved to be successful.

The Green Line had been operating on weekdays, but was extended last fall to include later evening hours and weekends. The Green Line provides service to the Rostraver shopping plaza for various Valley communities.

That increased service came after an extended study of the route that included surveys with riders.

The Washington County Transit Study made some recommendations for expanded service, including added runs from the Valley to the county seats and expanding the Green Line. The study – which began in December 2006 – evaluated public transportation services in Washington County and how to coordinate a transportation system to efficiently meet needs. It concluded in December.

The study was sponsored by the City of Washington/GG&C Bus Company, the MMVTA and the Washington County Transportation Authority (Washington Rides).

The authority acted on the Green Line expansion, but has yet to consider bus runs to Washington or Greensburg.

"It all comes down to affordability," Kissell said.

The rising cost of gas has affected the authority's bottom line, but the authority is not looking to increase fares.

CIRCULATION

(724) 684-2600 or 1-800-564-9000

8am - 6pm Monday - Friday • Closed Saturday

Circulation.....Linda Hutchison
Delivery.....Scott Sawa or Melissa Stima
Customer Service / Billing.....Cynthia Comet

SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT MONESSEN, PA
USPS NO. 655-720

RATES:

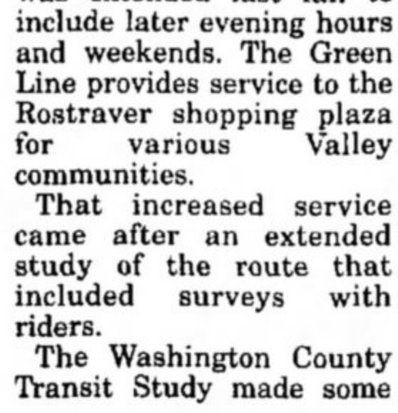
Home Delivery.....$2.95 per week
.....$12.76 per month
Monday - Saturday Valley Independent and Sunday Tribune Review
Single Copy.....50 cents

MAIL RATES:

3 Months.....$50.00
6 Months.....$95.00
12 Months.....$180.00

E-MAIL...valley@tribweb.com ~ VISIT OUR WEBSITE @ valleyindependent.com

Edward Filcheck, DPM
Podiatrist - Foot Specialist



Offering Medical & Surgical Treatment of
• Bunions • Corns • Warts
• Ingrown & Fungal Nails
• Hammer Toe • Heal & Arch Pain
• Foot Care • Sports Related Injuries
• Custom Made Orthotics
625 Lincoln Ave • Suite 104 • North Charleroi, PA 15022
724-483-2422

Marines want vehicle probe

The goal is to get much-needed equipment to troops in the combat zone.

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON – The Marine Corps has asked the Pentagon's inspector general to examine allegations that a nearly two-year delay in the fielding of blast-resistant vehicles led to hundreds of combat casualties in Iraq.

The system for rapidly shipping needed gear to troops on the front lines has been examined by auditors before and continues to improve, Col. David Lapan, a Marine Corps spokesman, said Monday night.

Becdause of the seriousness of the allegations, however, "the Marine Corps has taken the additional step" of requesting the IG investigation, Lapan said in an e-mailed statement.

In a Jan. 22 internal report, Franz Gayl, a civilian Marine Corps official, accused the service of "gross mismanagement" that delayed deliveries of the mine-resistant, ambush-protected trucks.

Gayl's study, which reflected his own views, said cost was a driving factor in the decision to turn down a February 2005 "urgent" request from battlefield commanders for the so-called MRAPs.

Stateside authorities saw the hulking vehicles, which weigh up to 40 tons and can cost as much as a $1 million each, as a financial threat to programs aimed at developing lighter vehicles that were years from being fielded, charged Gayl, who prepared the study for the Marine Corps' plans, policies and operations department.

Gayl, a retired Marine officer, is the science and technology adviser to Lt. Gen. Richard Natonski, who heads the department.

The Associated Press first reported on Gayl's study Feb. 15. At that time, Gayl's work had not been reviewed by his immediate supervisor, Col. David Wilkinson, Lapan said Monday.

"The paper represents Gayl's personal opinions and is clearly marked as such," Lapan said. "It is both preliminary and pre-decisional, and therefore a mischaracterization to term his work an official study or report."

Gen. Robert Magnus, the Marine Corps' assistant commandant, disputed Gayl's conclusions in a recent interview with Marine Corps Times.

Magnus and other Marine Corps officials have said the defense industry lacked the capacity to build MRAPs in large numbers when the 2005 request was made. The best solution to the deadly roadside bombs planted by insurgents was to add extra layers of steel to the less sturdy Humvee, they said.

"I don't think (the study) stands up to the facts about what we did, about what the industry was capable of doing and why we did what we did," Magnus told the newspaper in an interview. "I just don't think that's accurate."

Defense Secretary Robert Gates declared the MRAP the Pentagon's No. 1 acquisition priority in May 2007. Defense contractors are now producing close to 1,000 vehicles a month.

Gayl has clashed with his superiors in the past and filed for whistleblower protection last year. In his study, he recommended an inquiry be conducted to determine if any military or government employees are culpable for failing to rush critical gear to the troops.

"If the mass procurement and fielding of MRAPs had begun in 2005 in response to the known and acknowledged threats at that time, as the (Marine Corps) is doing today, hundreds of deaths and injuries could have been prevented," Gayl said. "While the possibility of individual corruption remains undetermined, the existence of corrupted MRAP processes is likely, and worthy of (inspector general) investigation."

Sens. Joe Biden, D-Del., and Kit Bond, R-Mo., called for an investigation after reviewing Gayl's report.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars, the nation's oldest veterans organization, said if Gayl's allegations are true, charges should be brought against the military and civilian officials who failed to deliver the MRAPs.

If, however, Gayl's findings are incorrect, he should be held accountable for his actions, said VFW National Commander George Lisicki in a Feb. 19 letter to members of Congress.

"There is no doubt MRAPs have saved many lives in horrendous (improvised explosive device) explosions, but to accuse the Marine Corps of knowingly and intentionally jeopardizing the safety of fellow Marines on the battlefield is a very serious charge," Lisicki said.

Gates plans to talk defense with India

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — India's quest to modernize its military against a backdrop of China's burgeoning defense growth and an ongoing regional terrorism threat were the focus of talks planned today with U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates.

"It is in our interest to develop this relationship," said Gates. "Just as it is in the Indians' interest."

The Pentagon chief was expected to raise the prospects of New Delhi's plan for a $10 billion fighter jet purchase — which features bids from major U.S. defense contractors Boeing Corp. and Lockheed Martin.

Gates arrived at midday for a series meetings with the prime minister, the minister of external affairs and other elected officials in the parliamentary government.

His visit comes during a somewhat volatile time in the region. Talks have stalled on a landmark nuclear cooperation pact between India and the United States, and New Delhi continues to eye nervously the ongoing unrest and terrorism threats in neighboring Pakistan.

Pain (FROM PAGE ONE)

Dhahran, Saudi Arabia.

Six days later, Anthony Madison was one of 13 members of the 14th Quartermaster to die when an Iraqi Scud missile slammed into their barracks during the waning days of the war.

In all, 28 soldiers were killed and 99 injured from the 14th Quartermaster and the 477th Provisional Transportation Unit in the fiery explosion that leveled the quarters.

The 14th Quartermaster sustained the greatest number of casualties of any coalition unit during the two-month conflict.

"I didn't want him to go. I knew he wasn't coming back. I dreamed it every night, then he didn't," Madison said. "I still can't comprehend it."

Yesterday, Madison joined about 70 family members, friends and veterans at a memorial service at the unit's headquarters in Carbon to mark the 17th anniversary of the attack.

Madison said he "wouldn't have made it this far" without the bonds he's made at the 14th Quartermaster.

At the 10th anniversary gathering, Madison met Chris and Heather McHugh, of Irwin, who invited Madison and his wife, Darla, to their place of worship, The Church near Sutersville.

The Madisons have worshipped with the McHughs ever since.

"Anthony is a hero like the rest of those who died. He died doing the right thing," said Chris McHugh, a former specialist in the Army's 24th Infantry who suffered a spinal injury in Operation Desert Storm.

"I'm going to have a barbecue picnic this summer so we all can meet again," said Madison, whose grandson, Anthony E. Madison II, 21, is an Army staff sergeant who will return in 2009 for a second tour in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Many such fellowships forged in tragedy were rekindled before yesterday's service.

Standing at attention in the cold rain were members of the 14th Quartermaster, friends and relatives, and 40 veterans from AMVETS Post 94 of United, the Armbrust Veterans, The Retired and Enlisted Association Chapter 98 of Scottdale, the American Legion Post 515 of Latrobe and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8643 of Pleasant Unity.

"To all men and women in uniform, past and present, thank you to those here for remembering those we've lost," said Dee Cassidy, a member of the 14th Quartermaster's Family Readiness Group.

Valley briefs

Police arrest pair in burglary attempt

Two Donora men were arrested for trying to break into Campy's Pizzeria in Lower Speers early this morning.

Charleroi police Officer William Gardner went to Campy's at 3:45 a.m. when the alarm activated. He noticed a door was damaged.

A witness told Gardner two men were seen leaving Campy's.

Officer Michael Polinksi saw a vehicle on McKean Avenue and, after it was stopped, the two officers arrested Louis Vasquez, 46, and Kenneth Ferguson, 36.

Both were charged with criminal attempt to commit burglary, criminal conspiracy to commit burglary and possessing instruments of a crime. Ferguson was also charged with criminal mischief, police said.

Sweep defendants waive hearings

Three men arrested last week following a federal drug sweep in the Mid-Mon Valley appeared in federal court in Pittsburgh on Monday.

Tavius Smith, 29, of 679 Reed Ave., Monessen; Jamie Lightfoot, 36, of 125 Castner Ave., and John Crews, 430 First St., both of Donora, waived their right to hearings before U.S. District Judge Lisa Lenihan.

They were arrested Feb. 19 by agents from the FBI and Internal Revenue Service and members of the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force, which includes federal, state and local personnel.

Crews was arrested on drug charges. He was charged with two counts of distribution and possession of a controlled substance (cocaine).

Smith is charged with convicted felons not permitted to own firearms while Lightfoot is charged with one count of distribution and possession of a controlled substance (cocaine).

In the complaint against Smith, investigators claimed that he "admitted his involvement in large scale cocaine trafficking activities."

During the search and seizure of Smith's residence, items confiscated by ATF agents included: $245,000 in cash and various drug paraphernalia.

During a search of the home of Smith's mother, Alvina King, of 957 Grant St., Monessen, agents found three firearms - a 9 mm pistol, .41 magnum revolver and 12 gauge shotgun - that Smith allegedly admitted to owning.

Coroners disagree at Ellerbe trial

Jurors hearing the wrongful death trial involving the shooting by state police of a 12-year-old Uniontown boy will have to sort out a case of dueling coroners.

Former Allegheny County Coroner Cyril H. Wecht, testifying last week on behalf of two state troopers, said Michael Ellerbe died of a single gunshot wound in the back and the bullet exited his chest and grazed his arm.

On Monday, Dr. Werner Spitz, the former medical examiner for Wayne County, Mich., rejected Wecht's conclusions and theorized that two bullets struck Ellerbe.

Ellerbe's father, Michael Hickenbottom, sued the troopers after state and federal authorities declined to bring charges.

He claims the troopers used unreasonable force.

Courthouse workers eye new union

Westmoreland County employees to vote on forming an independent bargaining unit.

By RICH CHOLODOFSKY
For The Valley Independent
rcholodofsky@tribweb.com

Nearly 300 courthouse workers will vote next week whether to form a new bargaining unit in hopes of securing a better deal from Westmoreland County.

Court-related and court-appointed workers want to leave the Service Employees International Local 668, the bargaining unit that represents about half of the county's work force of about 2,000.

Court workers bargain separately with the county because they are ineligible to strike. While the majority of the SEIU members reached a new negotiated labor deal in 2006, the court workers took their dispute to arbitration.

Those court workers have worked without a contract since the end of 2005.

A state arbitrator issued a ruling in October that set the union's new deal. That contract was never implemented by the county because union members filed court documents seeking to withdraw from the SEIU.

As a result, those workers have not received a raise for two years.

The three-year contract - which would have given workers hourly raises of 60 cents last year and 65 cents in 2008 and 2009, as well as $1,200 in a one-time, lump-sum payment for each employee - has been in limbo since October.

Similar financial terms were ratified by other SEIU members, who include parks workers, road crews and office clerks and secretaries in offices that are not court-related. Nurses at Westmoreland Manor are represented by another SEIU local.

"SEIU leadership has been dishonest and deceitful to their members," said Jackie Lucchetti, an office worker for Greensburg District Judge James Albert and one of the organizers of the move to form a new bargaining unit.

Union members on Oct. 25 filed a petition with the Pennsylvania Labor Relations Board to certify a new bargaining unit.

They will vote March 6 at the courthouse when members will have three options: to stay in the SEIU, to form a new independent bargaining unit called the Westmoreland County Court-Related Employees Association or to have no formal representation.

Cal U getting greener

New faculty member arrived on campus with more than 300 plants donated by his former employer - the Brooklyn Botanical Garden.

By STACY WOLFORD
Staff Writer
swolford@tribweb.com

The California University of Pennsylvania campus is getting a lot greener these days, thanks to a new professor.

Dr. Mark Tebbitt, assistant professor in the department of biological and environmental sciences, brought over 300 plants with him from the Brooklyn Botanical Garden in New York City.

Tebbitt worked for the Brooklyn Botanical Garden for 10 years before coming to Cal U in September. The Brooklyn facility donated the plants to the university.

One of the most interesting plants that have a new home at the greenhouse on the roof of the Frich Biology Building is a wollemi pine. Botanists knew about the plant previously, but only from fossilized impressions from around the time of dinosaurs. Then, a few years ago, a hiker in Australia spotted some unfamiliar trees.

"He couldn't identify them, so he carried a specimen out with him, and the discovery was made," Tebbitt said.

Tebbitt described the collection of plants as "important," noting they are "rare, and are of great educational value."

Some even have "fascinating stories" associated with them, he said.

The collection comprises plants from a variety of habitats, including desert, rain forest, Mediterranean and aquatic settings.

Many of the plants are often used in everyday food products, such as coffee, cacao (from which chocolate is derived) and ginger.

Others, such as Madagascan periwinkle, a source of commercial anti-cancer drugs, and taro, a huge-leaved plant with an edible tuberous root, are also valuable.

There is also a collection of carnivorous plants.

"We've got a fantastic collection, but what makes it really special is that it's primarily a teaching resource," Tebbitt said.

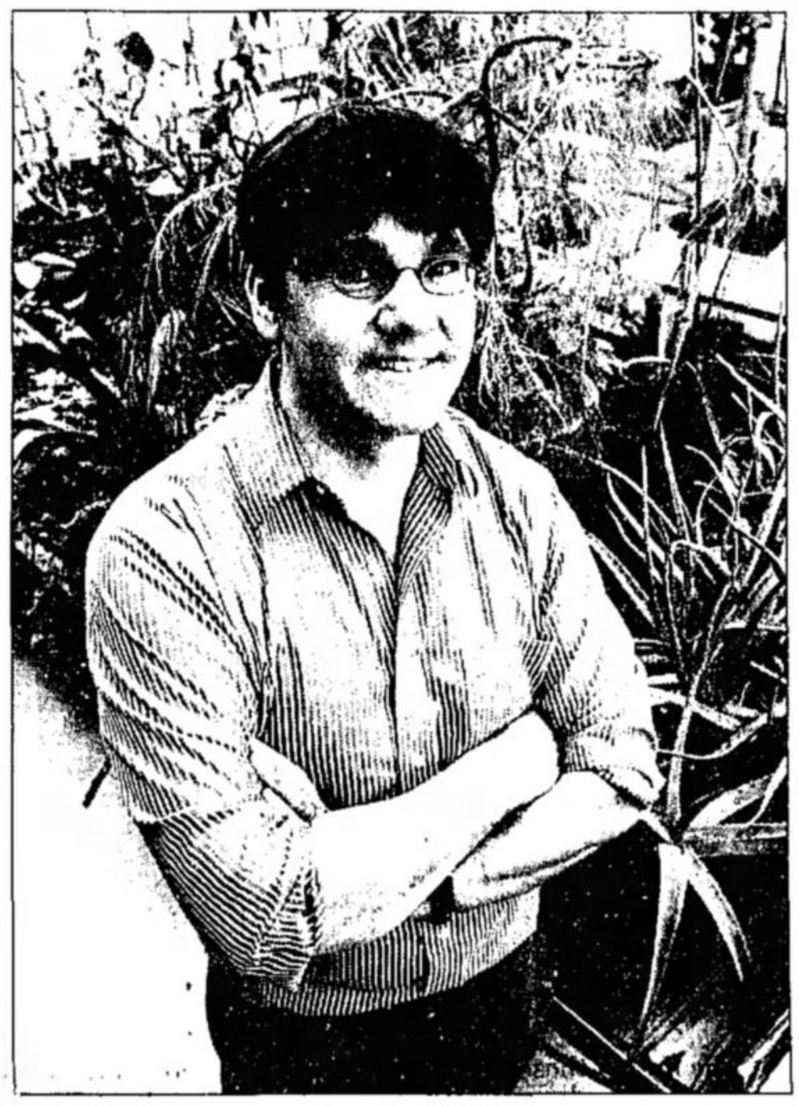
A native of England, Tebbitt said he's happy to be back in the classroom teaching. He welcomes non-biology students and faculty to make an appointment to check out the greenhouse.

"We're always keen to have people up here," he said.

"And this is a good place to be in the winter. It's just nice to be surrounded by lush growing plants at this time of year."

Valley profiles

A weekly look at one of our neighbors



Dr. Mark Tebbitt is surrounded by more than 300 plants he added to the greenhouse collection at California University of Pennsylvania.

Wecht team rebuts fraud allegations

By JASON CATO
For The Valley Independent
jcato@tribweb.com

A lawyer for Dr. Cyril H. Wecht presented scores of documents Monday showing the former Allegheny County coroner had properly charged private clients for travel costs, contradicting examples cited by federal prosecutors.

Invoices and credit card statements from 2003 through 2005 showed Wecht had billed his clients properly, except for an occasional random error, said defense attorney Mark Rush

"We saw 20 cents here, 20 cents there, but we didn't see a scheme and artifice to defraud, did we?" Rush asked Eileen Young, a former coroner's office secretary.

"Oh, no," answered Young, a government witness who is testifying with immunity from prosecution.

Rush did not ask Young about other items on the same invoices, which showed Wecht had charged private clients for limousine rides to and from Pittsburgh International Airport.

She testified last week that Wecht never took limo rides to the airport, and that coroner's office employees drove him there in county-owned cars.

She said Wecht told her he charged clients a $90 limo fee to cover other incidental travel costs.

Prosecutors claim Wecht, 76, of Squirrel Hill used his public office for private gain by using county employees and resources to benefit his consulting business, and that he committed mail and wire fraud by overcharging private clients for expenses.

• Free Parking Space
• 34 Washers/18 Dryers
• Washers Ideal For Bulky Items
• 35 & 55lb. Washers
OPEN 7 DAYS 6AM-10PM
AMERICAN LAUNDROMAT
426 EAST MAIN ST., MONONGAHELA
JUST PAST EDDIE CHEVY CAR STAR AUTO
AMERICAN LAUNDROMAT

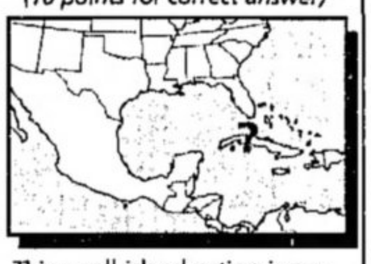
Sunday Tribune-Review
We Deliver Newspapers and More

ANDEN Chiropractic Clinic
"Healing The Valley One Spine At A Time"
Decompression for treatment of Disc • Carpal Tunnel
Utilizing Traditional And State Of The Art Techniques To Suit Your Specific Need.
193 Finley Road Rostraver
724-930-8060
Most Insurances Accepted

FRESH CUT GYROS
JUST A TAVERN
$5 Every Tuesday 11AM-6PM
N. Belle Vernon
Call ahead
724-929-9906

THE QUIZ

NEWSPLACE
(10 points for correct answer)



This small island nation is one of the world's last bastions of communism. The United States has had a very uneasy relationship with this country for decades, and has maintained a trade blockade against it since 1962. The economy here was hard hit by the breakdown of the Soviet Union, a longtime ally, but since 2000, Venezuela has been supplying oil on preferential terms. Now the world is watching what course this nation will take next. The man who led this country for 49 years recently stepped down due to failing health and named his brother as his replacement. Name this country.

PEOPLE/SPORTS
(5 points for each correct answer)

1.What is the name of the Belle Vernon Area School District's accounting firm?

2.Who is president of the Washington County Chamber of Commerce?

3.Who is director of the California Area High School theatre department?

4. Who is Charleroi Area High School's wrestling coach?

5. Who is Bentworth High School's boys basketball coach?

WORLDSCOPE
(10 points for each correct answer)

1-Conservative, pro-U.S. Lee Myung-bak, known as the "Bulldozer," was sworn in as the new president of ..?...

2-Thousands of Palestinians have formed a "human chain" in ..?.. in protest at Israel's blockade of the territory.

3-Troops from ..?.. have launched more attacks at Kurdish separatists in northern Iraq.

4- The Pentagon claimed success at shooting down a disabled ..?...

5-A public policy research firm found that Americans' overall rate of ..?.. grew by 315 percent from 1989 to 2006.

NEWSNAME
(15 points for correct answer)

The son of a Lebanese immigrant, I am well known for my decades as a powerful consumer advocate. I first gained fame with my 1965 book "Unsafe at Any Speed," which exposed the automobile industry's lax safety standards. On Sunday, I announced that I was making my fourth straight White House bid, this time as an independent. Many Democrats are still angry at me for running in 2000, claiming that I may have cost Al Gore the election. But I have asserted that it is important to challenge this country's two-party dominance. Asked why I should be president, I said, "Because I got things done." Who am I?

©Knowledge Unlimited, Inc. 2-25-08

91 to 100 points *TOP SCORE!*
81 to 90 points *Excellent*
71 to 80 points *Good*
61 to 70 points *Fair*

ANSWERS

NEWSPLACE: Cuba
WORLDSCOPE: 1-South Korea; 2-Gaza; 3-Turkey; 4-spy satellite; 5-credit card debt
NEWSNAME: Ralph Nader
PEOPLE/SPORTS: 1-Cypher & Cypher; 2-Jeff Kotula; 3-Lori Martin; 4-Gregg Doerfler; 5-Bob Kennedy

Free Checking Affordable Loans
• Monessen • Monongahela
• Park Centre • Perryopolis
• Rostraver • Uniontown
• Donora • Peters Twp
Visit Our Newest Location! • Washington
FIRST FEDERAL SAVINGS BANK
Where Performance Counts
www.firstfederal-savings.com
Equal Housing Lender Member FDIC

To Advertise In This Weekly Feature
Call Michelle at:
(724) 684-2614
The Valley INDEPENDENT

SERVING 21 MON VALLEY COMMUNITIES WITH DIRECT AND CONNECTING COMMUTER ROUTES TO PITTSBURGH 365 DAYS A YEAR.

FOR SCHEDULE INFORMATION CALL OUR RIDE LINE AT 724-converted OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT www.mvta.com
TRANSIT

Do You Experience...
Chronic Pain
Back Pain
Fibromyalgia
Headaches
Carpal Tunnel
Jaw Pain

Dr. James V. Scirotto
Scirotto Chiropractic
724-379-4000
Rt. 51 • Belle Vernon
Accepting the Blues, UPMC & Most Major Insurance's

VALLEY 1st COMMUNITY FCU
815 Schoonmaker Avenue • Monessen, PA 15062
724-684-8875
Mon. - Fri. 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
100 Sara Way • Belle Vernon, PA 15012 (Inside WalMart)
724-929-8002
Mon. - Fri. 10:00 AM - 7:00 PM
Sat. 8.00 AM - 1:00 PM
www.valley1st.org

RECORDS

DEATH NOTICES

BITONTI — Frank Bitonti, 75, of Belle Vernon, on Monday, Feb. 25. James C. Stump Funeral Home Inc., Sweeney Plan/Rostraver Township.*

BUTERA — Salvatore "Sam" Butera, of Charleroi, on Tuesday, Feb. 26. Carl J. Spallino Funeral Home, Charleroi.

GRIFFITH — Joyce A. Griffith, 47, of Monessen, formerly of Belle Vernon, on Monday, Feb. 25. Ferguson Funeral Home and Crematory Inc., Belle Vernon.*

PARISH — George Parish, 81, of Finleyville, on Sunday, Feb. 24. Kegel Funeral Home, Finleyville.*

RANKIN — Rev. Dr. John Roberts Rankin, of Brownsville, on Sunday, Feb. 24. Novak Funeral Home, Brownsville.*

SHAPORKA — Jeane Shaporka, 59, of Uniontown, formerly of California, Pa., on Saturday, Feb. 23. Mariscotti Funeral Home, California.*

STEIN — Sarah Stein, 78, of Monessen, on Sunday, Feb. 24. Stephen D. Yoney Jr. Funeral Home, Monessen.*

SULICH — Michael Sulich, 78, of Monessen, on Sunday, Feb. 24. Stephen D. Yoney Jr. Funeral Home, Monessen.*

PREVIOUS DEATHS:
LANG, Guy*
*** See death notice**

Rev. Dr. John Roberts Rankin
Brownsville

The Rev. Dr. John Roberts Rankin, of Brownsville, part-time pastor of Roscoe Presbyterian Church, PCUSA, died Sunday, February 24, 2008, after a six-month battle with cancer complicated by heart disease. The 76-year-old pastor was preceded in death by his parents, the Rev. John A. and Ella Mae Hoover Rankin; and his brother, the Rev. Harry W. Rankin. He is survived by his wife, Barbara Boyd Rankin; four children, Rebecca Eileen Rankin, of Washington, Pa., John Alexander Rankin, of Loganville, Ga., Elizabeth Kathleen Rankin McEvoy, of New Gloucester, Maine, and Rachel Margaret Van Der Stuyf, of Fishkill, N.Y.; four grandchildren, Keaton Elizabeth and Carson Rhys McEvoy, Tommy Alexander Rankin and Finn Roberts Van Der Stuyf; and two sisters, Betty French, of Port Charlotte, Fla., and Helen Hunter, of McMurray. Rev. Rankin graduated from Muskingum College and the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, where he received both his Master's of Theology and Doctorate of Ministry degrees. He has served churches throughout the larger Pittsburgh area, having started as the Director of Christian Education at Edgewood Presbyterian Church while starting his seminary training. Rev. Rankin was ordained and served as the first pastor of the newly built Community Non-Denominational Church of Bradfordwoods. Four years later, he was ordained into the PCUSA when he went to serve the Mt. Prospect Presbyterian Church in Hickory (now known as Hickory United Presbyterian Church). Rev. Rankin came to serve the First Presbyterian Church in California, Pa., in 1968 and retired from there in 1997. He was in his 10th year of part-time ministry in Roscoe at the time of his death. Rev. Rankin was a church leader in the Washington Presbytery, where he was a past moderator. He had served as a member of the council of both the Presbytery and the Synod of the Trinity. Dr. Rankin was active in the California Ministerial Association and in forming a united campus ministry to the California University of Pennsylvania community. A leader in ecumenical activities and worship, Rev. Rankin con-celebrated the liturgy at Holy Trinity Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic Church in California, Pa., for seven years when their priest was challenged with cancer (doing so with the approval of the local Bishop and the encouragement of the PCUSA Synod Executive). Dr. Rankin led a week of Worship Services in the multi-national Anglican Church at St. Lawrence, Christ Church, Barbados, West Indies. During his years of ministry, he was active in the communities. Rev. Rankin served 20 years as a volunteer fireman in Bradfordwoods, Hickory and California. He was a member and former president of the board at the Center in the Woods as it evolved to the regional facility it is today. Dr. Rankin also was a past president and member of the board of the California Public Library and the Washington County Children and Youth Services. A memorial celebration of "The Life of Rev. John Rankin" is scheduled for 2 p.m. Saturday, March 29, 2008, at the Center in the Woods, Route 88 between Brownsville and California. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions be made to: Rev. John Rankin Memorial, Roscoe Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 716, Roscoe, Pa. 15477; First Presbyterian Church, 303 Fourth St., California, Pa. 15419; or, Center in the Woods, 130 Woodland Court, Brownsville, Pa. 15417. Arrangements are being handled through the NOVAK FUNERAL HOME, 515 Front St., Brownsville, Pa. 15417. To sign the online guest book or to record a personal condolence, please log on to www.novakfuneralhome.net

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

Jeane Shaporka
Uniontown
Formerly of California, Pa.

Jeane Shaporka, 59, of Uniontown, formerly of California, Pa., died peacefully at home on Saturday, February 23, 2008. She was born Wednesday, September 29, 1948, in Coal Center, a daughter of the late William E. and Lucille Encapera Dwyer. Left to cherish her memory are her daughter and son-in-law, Dawne and Ernie Crawford, of Lowhill; grandsons, Joel and Travis Crawford; sister and brother-in-law, Robin and Lou Dipietrantonio, of Dunlevy; her long-time companion, John Koval, with whom she made her home along with their two dogs, Balto and Cheyenne. Friends will be received in the MARISCOTTI FUNERAL HOME INC., Anthony N. Mariscotti, Supervisor, 323 Fourth St., California, on Tuesday, February 26, from 7 to 9 p.m. Funeral services will be private and held at the convenience of the family. In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions be made to: Washington Area Humane Society, P.O. Box 66, Eighty Four, Pa. 15330.

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

Frank Bitonti
Belle Vernon

Frank Bitonti, 75, of Belle Vernon, died Monday, February 25, 2008, in Jefferson Hills Manor, Jefferson Borough. Born in Belle Vernon on July 1, 1932, he was the son of the late Salvatore and Mary Spina Bitonti. He worked as an electrical engineer for U.S. Steel. Mr. Bitonti was a retired Colonel for the U.S. Army Reserves and a member of the Church of St. Anne in Rostraver Township. He is survived by his son, Thomas Bitonti, of Carey, N.C.; two daughters, Marie T. Smith and husband, Robert, of Mentor, Ohio, and Diana L. Hardy, of Madison, Ohio; two grandchildren, Madeline Smith and Robert Smith; and one brother and sister, Joseph Bitonti and Anna Adametz, both of Belle Vernon. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two brothers, Paul and Sam Bitonti. Friends will be received Thursday, February 28, from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. and Friday, February 29, until 9:30 a.m. in the JAMES C. STUMP FUNERAL HOME INC., 580 Circle Drive, Belle Vernon/Rostraver Township (724-929-7934); www.jamesstumpfuneralhome.com. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated Friday at 10 a.m. in the Church of St. Anne, Rostraver Township, with his pastor, the Rev. Ronald L. Simboli, presiding. Interment will be held at the convenience of the family.

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

Joyce A. Griffith
Monessen

Joyce A. Griffith, 47, of Monessen, died Monday, February 25, 2008, in Mon Valley Hospital. A daughter of the late John A. and Sharon Roley Zaph, she was born in North Charleroi on October 15, 1960. Formerly of Belle Vernon, Joyce had resided in Monessen for the past seven years and was a member of the Charleroi Baptist Church. Survivors include two sons and one daughter-in-law, Ron and Jame Griffith and Dustin Griffith, all of Monessen; one sister and brother-in-law, Faith and Al Gantner, of Star Junction; four grandchildren, Dustin Jr., Kali, Autumn and Hanna Griffith; two nieces, Dana Kramer and Brandy Valentine; and two nephews, Jason and Jeff Ritenour. Friends will be received Wednesday, February 27, from 6 to 9 p.m. in the FERGUSON FUNERAL HOME and CREMATORY INC., 700 Broad Ave., Belle Vernon, www.FergusonFuneralHomeAndCrematory.com, (724-929-5300). Funeral services will be in the funeral home on Thursday, February 28, at 10 a.m. with Pastor Kevin Roberts officiating. Interment will follow in Mon Valley Memorial Park, Donora. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions be made to the family through the funeral home.

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

Guy Lang
Monessen

Guy Lang, 86, of Monessen, died Saturday, February 23, 2008, in Monongahela Valley Hospital Inc. He was born in Belle Vernon on July 1, 1921, the son of the late John and Anna Catherine Winn Lang. He was a resident of Monessen most all his life and a member of Epiphany of Our Lord Roman Catholic Church and the former St. Leonard Roman Catholic Church, American Legion Post 28, and the Eagles Aerie 2399. Mr. Lang was retired from the Monessen plant of Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel, having worked in the Open Hearth Electrical Department. Following his retirement, he worked at the former Star Lanes Bowling Alley in Monessen. He was an avid bowler and a member of several bowling leagues over the years. He was a veteran of World War II, having served with the U.S. Army in Company L of the 319th Infantry Regiment in Europe, receiving the European African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with a Bronze Star. He is survived by wife of 64 years, Carmella "Corkie" Lang; a son and daughter-in-law, Thomas D. and Patti Lang, of Belle Vernon; a daughter and son-in-law, Tanya and Lawrence Sobek, of Monessen; three grandchildren, Natalie R. Glaspey and husband, Christian, and Thomas A. Lang, all of Belle Vernon; and Yancy J. Sobek and wife, Melissa, of Monessen; four great-grandchildren, Christian, Carley and Conner Glaspey, and Isabella Sobek; two sisters and brothers-in-law, Rita and Bill Watson, of Monessen, and Donna and Frank Jan, of Columbus, Ohio; and several nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by three brothers, Melford, William and John Lang; two sisters, Evelyn Havrilak and Maryellen Wysochanski; and one granddaughter, Andrea P. Lang. Friends will be received Tuesday, February 26, from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. in the DALFONSO-BILLICK FUNERAL HOME INC. and CREMATION SERVICES, 441 Reed Ave., Monessen (724-684-8750). Services will be held Wednesday, February 27, beginning with a 9:30 a.m. Blessing in the funeral home, followed by a 10 a.m. Funeral Mass in Epiphany of Our Lord R.C. Church. Interment will follow in Belle Vernon Cemetery. American Legion Post 28 will conduct a service for their fallen comrade on Tuesday at 7:15 p.m. in the funeral home. Condolences accepted for the family at www.dalfonso-billick.com

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

George Parish
Finleyville

George Parish, 81, of Finleyville, died Sunday, February 24, 2008, at HCR ManorCare in McMurray. He was born September 5, 1926, in Finleyville, a son of Joseph Sr. and Mary Spirak Parish. He was retired as a boiler operator at U.S. Steel Corporation, Clairton Works. Mr. Parish served with the U.S. Navy during World War II and was a member of St. Francis of Assisi Church, American Legion Post No. 613 and the Loyal Order of Moose No. 172, all in Finleyville, Arroas Haymakers Association 253 1/2 in New Eagle and the Slovak Club in Monongahela. He is survived by two brothers and one sister, John and Paul Parish, and Mary Koskoski, all of Finleyville; and several nieces and nephews. Deceased is his wife, Irene Parish, who died in 1990; four brothers, Joseph Jr., Stephen Sr., Albert and William; and two sisters, Anna Snee and Margaret Wetzel. Friends will be received Tuesday, February 26, from 7 to 9 p.m. and Wednesday, February 27, from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. at KEGEL FUNERAL HOME INC., Tim P. Kegel, Supervisor, 3560 Washington Ave., Finleyville. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Thursday, February 28, in St. Francis of Assisi Church, Finleyville, with the Rev. Robert J. Boyle as celebrant. Interment will follow in Monongahela Cemetery. American Legion Post 613 will conduct services at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday in the funeral home. Memorial contributions can be made to: St. Francis of Assisi Building Fund, 3609 Washington Ave., Finleyville, Pa. 15332.

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

Sarah Stein
Monessen

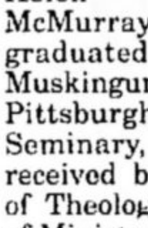
Sarah Stein, 78, of Monessen, passed away Sunday, February 24, 2008, in Westmoreland Manor, Greensburg. She was born October 9, 1929, in North Charleroi, the daughter of the late John and Susan Erdey Stein. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Raymond L. Stein. Survivors include three sons, Raymond Stein Jr., James C. Stein, and David D. Stein and wife, Tina; four grandchildren, Raymond Stein, Eric Stein, David C. Stein and wife, Kasey, and Alicia Stein; and one sister, Lillian Prescott, of the state of California. Private funeral services and burial were held in Belle Vernon Cemetery on Tuesday, February 26, with the Rev. David Nazimek officiating. Arrangements were handled by the STEPHEN D. YONEY JR. FUNERAL HOME, Monessen.

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

Michael Sulich
Monessen

Michael Sulich, 78, of Victoria House, Monessen, passed away Sunday, February 24, 2008, in Monongahela Valley Hospital. He was born September 6, 1929, in Europe, the son of the late Michael and Barbara Sulich. He retired from the shipping department at Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel, Allenport plant. There will be no public viewing and burial in Holy Name Cemetery will be held at the convenience of the family. Arrangements are being handled by the STEPHEN D. YONEY JR. FUNERAL HOME, Monessen.

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.



In Memory Of
Frank DiPiazza, III

My beloved son and our beloved brother & uncle, Frank DiPiazza, III, who passed away 1 year ago today, February 26, 2007.

Love Lives On

Those we love remain with us, for love itself lives on. And cherished memories never fade, because a loved one's gone. Those we love can never be more than a thought apart. For as long as there is memory, they'll live on in the heart.

Sadly missed and loved by Mom, brother Randy & wife Emily, sister Lisa & husband Chuck, niece Jahne, nephews Brennan, Alec & Seth.

Seeking exports

Do you know of someone who once lived in the Mon Valley, but moved on to forge a life elsewhere?

Is that person involved in an interesting or successful career?

If so, we would like to hear from you. Your friend could be featured in Valley Exports.

To submit a name, call Joe Abramowitz at (724) 684-2634. You also can email to jabramowitz@tribweb.com.

POLICE LOG

State police, Belle Vernon

■ Clyde Hallam of Finleyville reported someone stole his National City Bank card and used it at a BP in New Eagle and 7-11 in Union Township.

Southwest Regional

■ John A. Higby, 27, of 419 Cassin Ave., Newell, was charged with simple assault following an alleged domestic incident around 1 a.m. today at the Newell firemen's club, police said.

Onorato: Video poker might be a good bet

10 percent tax on poured alcoholic drinks has drawn sharp criticism.

By BRAD BUMSTED
For The Valley Independent
bbumsted@tribweb.com

HARRISBURG — Allegheny County Chief Executive Dan Onorato says he's "not running away" from the drink tax.

But in remarks Monday to the Pennsylvania Press Club, Onorato said he'd like to find an alternative from the state, and that legalizing and taxing video poker machines on a limited basis statewide might be a solution.

> "It's the most difficult thing I've had to deal with as chief executive."
> Dan Onorato

The 10 percent tax on poured alcoholic drinks has brought sharp criticism for Onorato. "As you can imagine, I haven't been in many bars lately in Southwestern Pennsylvania," he joked in a speech to public relations executives, state press secretaries and lobbyists.

"It's been the most difficult thing I've had to deal with as chief executive," said Onorato, a Democrat who pushed the tax and a $2-a-day surcharge on rental cars to raise $30 million for the Port Authority.

He acknowledged the poker machine idea might not please legislators because of anticipated opposition from casino operators, but he'd like to talk to the county's legislative delegation about it.

"Right now I'm talking with bar owners, restaurateurs and legislators from my county to see if there is a (video poker) bill that has a shot," Onorato later told reporters.

Sen. Wayne Fontana, D-Brookline, said he and fellow lawmakers promised to consider the poker machine idea and other alternatives, but that the proposal might be problematic.

The idea surfaced at a recent meeting with bar owners in Onorato's office, said Sen. Jay Costa, D-Forest Hills. According to Costa, the problems with the idea are twofold:

■ Little or no appetite in the General Assembly for further expanding gambling.

■ The strong possibility that the state would have to refund the $50 million licensing fees to each casino operator if the state adds new gambling, such as video poker in bars.

An opening might come if the Legislature later decides to add table games to slot machines in casinos, Onorato said.

"It's taken so many years to legalize casino gambling," said Stephen Miskin, a spokesman for House Republicans, "and now Onorato thinks the Legislature is going to allow competition to cut into the minimal proceeds?"

Onorato has maintained that the drink tax is preferable to raising property taxes to pay for public transit. He said his preferred option was using the county's 1 percent add-on to the 6 percent state sales tax.

He said Port Authority's problems run deep.

"The problem with the Port Authority ... is that management has basically destroyed the place over the last 20 years," Onorato said. "It's been mismanaged. There have been golden parachutes, and people have been walking out of there putting cash in their pockets, and it's blowing up now."

NEWS

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Tuesday, Feb. 26, the 57th day of 2008. There are 309 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight

On Feb. 26, 1919, Congress established Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona.

On this date:

■ In 1815, Napoleon Bonaparte escaped from exile on the Island of Elba.

■ In 1929, President Coolidge signed a measure establishing Grand Teton National Park.

■ In 1940, the U.S. Air Defense Command was created.

■ In 1945, a midnight curfew on nightclubs, bars and other places of entertainment was set to go into effect across the United States.

■ In 1952, Prime Minister Winston Churchill announced that Britain had developed its own atomic bomb.

■ In 1979, a total solar eclipse cast a moving shadow 175 miles wide from Oregon to North Dakota before moving north into Canada.

■ In 1987, the Tower Commission, which probed the Iran-Contra affair, issued its report, which rebuked President Ronald Reagan for failing to control his national security staff.

■ In 1993, a bomb built by Islamic extremists exploded in the parking garage of New York's World Trade Center, killing six people and injuring more than 1,000 others.

■ **Ten years ago**: A jury in Amarillo, Texas, rejected an $11 million lawsuit brought by Texas cattlemen who blamed Oprah Winfrey's talk show for a price fall after a segment on food safety that included a discussion about mad cow disease.

■ **Five years ago**: President Bush, offering new justification for war in Iraq, told a think tank that "ending this direct and growing threat" from Saddam Hussein would pave the way for peace in the Middle East and encourage democracy throughout the Arab world.

■ **One year ago**: Iraq's Shiite vice president, Adel Abdul-Mahdi, narrowly escaped death as a blast ripped through a government meeting hall just hours after it had been searched by U.S. teams with bomb-sniffing dogs; at least 10 people were killed.

■ **Today's Birthdays**: Singer Fats Domino is 80. Political columnist Robert Novak is 77. Country-rock musician Paul Cotton (Poco) is 65. Actor-director Bill Duke is 65. Singer Mitch Ryder is 63. Rock musician Jonathan Cain (Journey) is 58. Singer Michael Bolton is 55. Actor Greg Germann is 50. Virginia Gov. Tim Kaine is 50. Bandleader John McDaniel is 47. Actress Jennifer Grant is 42. Rock musician Tim Commerford (Audioslave) is 40. Singer Erykah Badu is 37. Rhythm-and-blues singer Rico Wade (Society of Soul) is 36. Rhythm-and-blues singer Kyle Norman (Jagged Edge) is 33. Rhythm-and-blues singer Corinne Bailey Rae is 29. Country singer Rodney Hayden is 28. Actress Taylor Dooley is 15.

We return your call.
We come out for a free estimate.
We come when we said we would.
We do the job when we said we would.
We charge the contract price.
Kind of unique, huh?
Gamerooms
Kitchens
Bathrooms
Windows & Doors
Custom Renovations
Villella REMODELING
724.483.1183

Associated Press

Turkish army commandos are seen seated on the back of a vehicle which drives them toward the Turkey-Iraq border. Turkish warplanes and helicopters fly into northern Iraq as elite commandos and artillery continue to shake Kurdish rebels in a major ground operation across the border despite heavy snowfalls.

Shiite pilgrims crowd into Karbala for ceremonies

At least 8 million pilgrims are expected by Wednesday.

By JOHN AFFLECK
Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD — Processions of black-clad men flagellating themselves with chains to express grief at the martyrdom of a revered Shiite Muslim figure marched today through the city of Karbala, as a national pilgrimage marred by deadly attacks neared its conclusion.

Meanwhile, a suicide bomber attacked a bus outside the southern city of Mosul, killing nine people and wounding nine, the Iraqi army said.

Shiites from all over Iraq have walked to Karbala, 50 miles south of Baghdad for Arbaeen. The commemoration marks the end the mourning period following the anniversary of the death of Imam Hussein, who was slain in a seventh century battle and is buried in Karbala.

Iraqi and U.S. authorities have said at least 8 million pilgrims are expected to swell the streets of the city by the time the time ceremonies reach their peak on Wednesday and Thursday. With heavy security in the city, extremists have struck in recent days at more-exposed pilgrims on their way to Karbala. At least 63 pilgrims have been killed.

Police Chief Raid Shakir Jawdat has said 40,000 police officers and military troops are being deployed to prevent attacks, with patrols on the outskirts of the city guarding against rocket or mortar attacks and hundreds of snipers on tall buildings.

The United States blamed Sunni-led al-Qaida in Iraq on Monday for the sectarian attacks, the worst of which killed 56 and wounded scores of pilgrims who were taking a break from their travels Sunday at a refreshment tent.

U.S. Embassy spokesman Philip Reeker said that while al-Qaida in Iraq has been "severely damaged," it remains a "dangerous threat."

Overall, February already has seen a rise in Iraqi casualties to at least 670, up from 609 in January, which had the lowest monthly death toll in more than two years.

In Karbala, Associated Press Television News footage showed processions of men, some barefoot, marching in time and flagellating themselves to the beat of a drum. Crowds of black-robed women five or six deep watched from the side and tapped themselves over the heart also in time with the drum.

Iraqi soldiers patrolled the streets, and an Iraqi Army armored vehicle kept watch from a position fortified by blast walls and sandbags.

Major Shiite events have frequently been targeted in the past by suspected Sunni insurgents in their drive to stoke sectarian violence.

However, recent commemorations, including the Ashoura festival in mid-January to mark Imam Hussein's death, have passed without major bloodshed amid an overall decline in violence across Iraq.

U.S. hosts strategy session over Iran's nuclear program

Swift vote predicted on new sanctions.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States predicted a swift vote on new United Nations sanctions against Iran following a strategy session Monday, as Iran again denied ever trying to build nuclear weapons.

Diplomats from Britain, France, Russia, China, Germany and the U. S. met at the State Department ahead of what U.S. and European diplomats say will be a week or more of debate over the third international attempt to coerce Iran to bargain over its nuclear program. Iran has defied the U.N. Security Council's demands to roll back a nuclear program it maintains is peaceful.

The U.N. Security Council is expected to approve the new sanctions, although an unanimous vote is unlikely. A senior U.S. official said a vote is likely within a week to 10 days. The official, speaking on condition of anonymity to describe the closed-door session, said there were no changes to a draft that calls for a third round of mild sanctions.

The United States had wanted stronger penalties and much faster action to impose them, and U.S. diplomats have said the new vote is a test of the credibility of the Security Council in following through on its threats.

Permanent U.N. Security Council members Russia and China, trade partners of Iran's, have resisted stronger measures as counterproductive or a bad precedent.

The long-delayed debate was held up again recently as some nations said they wanted to first hear a report from the U.N. nuclear watchdog agency, which has investigated Iran's nuclear past.

The report Friday said major issues that had raised past suspicions about Iran's nuclear work had been largely resolved, and also confirmed that Iran continued to enrich uranium in defiance of the Security Council. Enriched uranium can be used either for nuclear energy or for bombs, and Iran insists it has the right to develop its own enrichment technology.

The International Atomic Energy Agency report noted Iran had rejected documents linking it to missile and explosives experiments and other work connected to a possible nuclear weapons program, calling the information false and irrelevant.

The report called weaponization "the one major ... unsolved issue relevant to the nature of Iran's nuclear program."

Forever Jewelry & Awards
GOLD IS AT AN ALL TIME HIGH
BUYING DAILY: 10-14-18K Gold, Bullion Silver, 90% Silver Coins, Gold Coins
12th Street • Lower Speers • Riverside Village
Belle Vernon PA 15012 • 724-483-8444

RICCAR America
The Best Vacuums You've Never Heard Of...Until Now!
Riccar takes you to a higher level of carpet cleaning with their High Efficiency Home Environment System Vacuums. Five filters, including an antibacterial treated filter bag allow you to capture 98% of vacuumed dust and debris at .1 micron to leave your carpet refreshed and revitalized after each vacuuming.
Starting At... $119.95
CHARLEROI SWEEPER & SEWING CENTER
618 Fallowfield Ave., Charleroi
724-483-3397
or 1-800-224-3397
http://www.midmon.com/vac

NORTH BELLE VERNON FIRE DEPT.
BINGO
Last Week of the Month Feb. 27th & 29th
ALL YOU CAN PLAY HARD BOARDS 10 OR PAPER REG. PRICE 12
Build Ups
•Early Bird 1000
•Bonanza 2000
•Red & Yellow 500 ea
•Inside Round Robin 1100 in 14 #'s
FREE COFFEE
JACKPOT 2900 IN 53#'s
Wednesday, February 27th
FREE COFFEE
CASH BASH BINGO 25 ADM. 4#'s
Wednesday, March 5th
For Information Call Roger 724-929-2811

THE WORLD BRIEFLY

Six killed in roadside bombing

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — A roadside bomb hit a vehicle carrying five policemen and a child in eastern Afghanistan today, killing all six, officials said.

Taliban militants have increasingly aimed their attacks at police, killing more than 925 officers in 2007 alone. Afghan police often work in small groups in remote and dangerous territory, where they are outnumbered and outgunned by insurgents.

The blast happened in the eastern Khost province close to the border with Pakistan, said police chief Gen. Mohammad Ayub. He blamed the attack on Taliban militants.

The victims included five policemen and a 3-year old child, said Lutfullah Babakarheil, a local government official. They were traveling in a private vehicle, he said.

The lack of an effective training program for the police is often cited as one of the West's biggest failings in Afghanistan since the 2001 U.S.-led invasion that ousted the Taliban regime for harboring Osama bin Laden and al-Qaida bases.

N.Y. Philharmonic in historic concert

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP) — The New York Philharmonic brought musical diplomacy to the heart of communist North Korea in a historic concert today before the communist nation's elite, with a program highlighting American music in the nuclear-armed country that considers the U.S. its mortal enemy.

The Philharmonic, which began the concert with North Korea's national anthem, "Patriotic Song," is the first major American cultural group to perform in the country and the largest delegation from the U.S. to visit its longtime foe.

The visit grew out of a period of warming relations between the nations that remain locked in negotiations over Pyongyang's nuclear weapons programs.

Pakistan blocks YouTube access

NEW YORK (AP) — Most of the world's Internet users lost access to YouTube for several hours Sunday after an attempt by Pakistan's government to block access domestically affected other countries.

The outage highlighted yet another of the Internet's vulnerabilities, coming less than a month after broken fiber-optic cables in the Mediterranean took Egypt off line and caused communications problems from the Middle East to India.

An Internet expert said Sunday's problems came after a Pakistani telecommunications company complied with the block by directing requests for YouTube videos to a "black hole." So instead of serving up videos of skateboarding dogs, it sent the traffic into oblivion.

Obama catches Clinton nationally

WASHINGTON (AP) — Barack Obama has taken clear leads over Hillary Rodham Clinton among white men, middle-income earners and liberals, allowing him to catch his faltering rival in their race for the Democratic presidential nomination, a national poll showed Monday.

The Illinois senator leads Clinton by 23 percentage points among white men and by 17 points among liberals — groups that were evenly divided between the two in early February. He has a similar advantage among people earning $50,000 to $100,000 annually — whom she led earlier by 13 points.

Clinton maintains robust leads among some groups that have been cornerstones of her candidacy, including those age 65 and up, white women and people earning under $50,000 annually.

'PENNSYLVANIA CASH 5'

'Cash 5' jackpot at least $650,000

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — Today's "Pennsylvania Cash 5" jackpot will be worth at least $650,000 because no player matched the five winning numbers drawn in Monday's game.

Lottery officials said 143 players matched four numbers and won $271 each; 5,415 players matched three numbers and won $12 each; and 70,169 players matched two numbers and won $1 each.

The Valley Independent LOTTERY RESULTS

PENNSYLVANIA DAILY NUMBERS

MONDAY, FEB. 25

DAY PICK 3:	7-9-3
NIGHT PICK 3:	1-2-4
DAY PICK BIG 4:	3-9-6-7
NIGHT PICK BIG 4:	0-6-5-0
TREASURE HUNT:	4-5-10-14-26
MIX & MATCH:	17-9-7-3-19
CASH 5:	1-20-26-32-40

OHIO DAILY NUMBERS

MONDAY, FEB. 25

DAY PICK 3:	5-0-9
NIGHT PICK 3:	8-7-6
DAY PICK 4:	5-7-1-8
NIGHT PICK 4:	5-4-2-2
ROLLING CASH 5:	3-4-13-26-37

WEST VIRGINIA DAILY NUMBERS

MONDAY, FEB. 25

DAILY 3:	1-2-0
DAILY 4:	1-9-1-6
CASH 25:	6-11-12-18-21-25

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of winning numbers and prize payouts. In the event of a discrepancy, the official and certified files maintained by the Pennsylvania Lottery's Security Office shall prevail.

THE Valley INDEPENDENT
Eastgate 19, Monessen
Pennsylvania 15062
Serving the Mon Valley for more than 100 years.
Telephone: (724) 684-5200 Fax: (724) 684-2603 E-Mail: valley@tribweb.com

Richard M. Scaife Publisher Inc., Publisher
Robert R. Hammond, Division Manager
Robert L. Burke, Managing Editor
Karen Strickland, Advertising Manager
William H. Lieb, Production Manager
Linda G. Hutchison, Circulation Manager
Violet K. Minjock, Accountant

OUR OPINION

State boosts three local companies

THREE VALLEY COMPANIES have shown such great promise that Pennsylvania is willing to invest in their respective futures though grants and tax credits.

That's especially good news because it seems Pennsylvania does much of its investing east of the Alleghenies. Based on a visit by Gov. Ed Rendell last week, that trend might be changing. Or maybe the three businesses are just too good to ignore.

Either way, Solar Power Energies and ClosetMaid, both of Rostraver Township, and Boltech Inc., of West Newton, benefitted greatly from the governor's stop in Westmoreland County.

Solar Power Energies, which specializes in the manufacture of low-cost solar cells, hit the jackpot. The company, which exports 80 percent of its product to European nations and 20 percent to China, received $5.1 million.

John R. Easoz, executive vice president, predicted the domestic market for solar cells will open up over the next five years. That would be great for Solar Power and equally good news for the Valley. Through its planned growth program, the company expects to add nearly 400 jobs.

Boltech, which makes hydraulic and pneumatic tools for the petrochemical and power generation industry, has grown more quickly than anticipated and could add an additional 50 jobs by year's end. Rendell delivered $259,000 to Boltech.

ClosetMaid, the nation's largest storage and organization company, received $310,000. It hopes to create 70 jobs over the next three years.

If Pennsylvania believes in ClosetMaid, it appears the company has similar feelings about the commonwealth. In entering into a five-year lease for the former SuperValu facility on Finley Road, ClosetMaid eliminated facilities in Ohio, Illinois and Massachusetts and made Rostraver its sole distribution center.

ClosetMaid's announcement is especially encouraging because it will breathe new life into the mammoth commercial facility.

While Pennsylvania should be doing all it can to retain and attract industry – radical improvements to the general business climate would help – there is danger when the state just doles out money.

The commonwealth provided sweet deals, first to Volkswagen and later to Sony, for the sprawling manufacturing facility near New Stanton. Both companies arrived with great promise, but ultimately faded.

That, hopefully, will not happen with Solar Power, Boltech and ClosetMaid. The commonwealth has taken steps to avoid such disappointments. Rendell last week said there is a strict "payback" provision to punish companies that do not meet goals for expanded employment.

If public dollars must be spent on private business, let it occur in the Mon Valley, which has never fully recovered from the decline of Big Steel. The Valley offers an eager and ready workforce, room for expansion and, with development of the Mon/Fayette Expressway, improved infrastructure.

It is nice to hear success stories, and hopefully, Solar Power, Boltech and ClosetMaid will continue to prosper.

How to reach us

The Valley Independent welcomes the input of our readers. Letters, e-mails and faxes must be signed and should include an address and daytime telephone number so the content of the message can be verified. (Phone numbers will not be published.)

Send your comments:

— By mail to Your Opinion, The Valley Independent, Eastgate 19, Monessen, Pa. 15062.

— By e-mail to valleyletters@tribweb.com

— By fax to (724) 684-2603.

All messages are subject to editing for clarification, brevity and libel. Messages should be kept to 300 words. (No poetry, please.)

While letters usually are published in order of submission, those concerning timely local issues are given priority.

Hillary needs more than new personnel

Morton **KONDRACKE**

Wisconsin was the first big test of Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton's new campaign high command, though perhaps not a fair one. Regardless, it failed and she has less than two weeks to figure out how to stop Sen. Barack Obama's relentless surge toward the Democratic presidential nomination.

Wisconsin wasn't a fair test because Clinton's former White House chief of staff, Maggie Williams, took over as campaign manager only a week before the Wisconsin primary.

Still, Williams & Co. were not able to come up with a strategy to slow Obama's momentum. On the contrary, Obama's 17-point victory in Wisconsin was even bigger than most polls forecast and represented more erosion of Clinton's base among female and working-class white voters.

Now, if Clinton loses one more big test — in Ohio or Texas on March 4 or Pennsylvania on April 22 — Obama probably will be unstoppable.

Campaign insiders say Williams' predecessor, Patti Solis Doyle, and her deputy, Mike Henry (also departed) were responsible for failing to prepare adequately for any events after Super Tuesday and that Williams team has infused a new sense of mission and direction.

Solis, they say, operated through a tight group known within as "The Five," including herself, pollster/strategist Mark Penn; policy chief Neera Tanden; media planner Mandy Grunwald; and communications director Howard Wolfson.

The remaining four are still in place, but Williams has brought in more outsiders, including former Bill Clinton operatives Craig Smith and Steve Ricchetti, to provide strategic advice, and has dedicated an entire floor of Clinton's Arlington, Va., campaign headquarters to a delegate-search operation headed by top strategist Harold Ickes.

Ickes, a former deputy chief of staff in the Clinton White House, reportedly told campaign loyalists in a conference call last week that he does not like the term "superdelegates," referring to 796 Members of Congress, governors and Democratic National Committee members who are ex officio convention delegates and can vote as they see fit.

A participant on the call said Ickes prefers the term "automatics," because it gives the delegates a less exalted status than "superdelegates."

Regardless of what they are called, the Clinton campaign is intensively working to win endorsements from them, figuring they are Clinton's best hope for winning the Democratic nomination if — as aides hope — "pledged" delegates chosen in primaries and caucuses split about evenly between Clinton and Obama.

At the moment, RealClearPolitics.com gives Obama an edge of 159 among pledged delegates, 1,187 to 1,028, but gives Clinton an edge, 239-169, among "automatics," reducing Obama's overall lead to 89 delegates, 1,356 to 1,267.

It takes 2,025 delegates to win the nomination, not counting any awarded in Michigan and Florida, which held primaries in violation of party rules.

The Obama campaign insists that only "pledged" delegates have true status, having been chosen democratically, and wants to establish a principle that "automatics" will cast their ballots for the candidate with the most pledged delegates and/or the popular-vote winner. Right now, that's Obama, too, by a margin of 10.2 million to 9.3 million.

On a post-Wisconsin conference call with reporters Tuesday, Obama campaign director David Plouffe said Clinton would have to win the upcoming Ohio, Texas and Pennsylvania primaries with 65 percent of the vote to catch Obama in pledged delegates.

In a separate call, Ickes and Wolfson said Plouffe's math was faulty and, of course, challenged the notion that superdelegates couldn't vote their consciences. Ickes also is determined to seat delegates from Michigan and Florida, whose primaries Clinton won.

According to a participant in last week's call, Ickes admitted that the idea of empowering "automatics" — otherwise known as "party bosses" — is a reversal for him from the days when he was "a child of the revolution" and an adviser to former presidential candidate Jesse Jackson.

Ickes reportedly asked Clinton supporters to make "buck up" calls to pro-Clinton "automatics" — especially members of the Congressional Black Caucus — whose states or districts were carried by Obama.

Ickes told the group that several such delegates are under extreme pressure — some of it accompanied by threats of political retaliation — to side with Obama.

In addition to setting up the Ickes operation, which has its own press secretary, Phil Singer, the Williams-led operation has a new liaison with Members of Congress, Linda Moore, a former Clinton White House aide and chief of staff for Sen. Evan Bayh, D-Ind.

Williams has dispatched Robbie Mook, the organizer of Clinton's Nevada caucus victory, to work Ohio, which is also a specialty of Ricchetti's, and Nick Clemons, who oversaw New Hampshire, to handle Texas.

If Wisconsin is any indicator, however, Clinton will need more than able organizers in Ohio and Texas. Her attacks on Obama in Wisconsin — for refusing to debate her and for allegedly plagiarizing speech lines — proved to be unpersuasive.

Demographically, Wisconsin is relatively similar to Ohio — with the exception that Ohio has more African-American voters. And in Texas, according to GOP political expert Karl Rove, middle-class whites have largely defected to the Republican Party, and Democratic delegate rules give more weight to African-American districts than to Hispanics.

Bottom line: The next two weeks are do or die for Clinton. She has been there before and has pulled it out — in New Hampshire and on Super Tuesday — but the crises never cease.

Jonathan Murt was an exceptional person

YOUR OPINION

To the Editor:

In the aftermath of the recent Seven Springs fire, which claimed the life of our nephew Jonathan Murt, we heard only of his being a BVA honors graduate and saw the same photograph repeated in print and electronic media.

We are writing to tell you "the rest of the story." He was much more than was initially portrayed.

Jonathan graduated this past June from West Virginia University with a degree in electrical engineering. He immersed himself in the "Mountaineer" culture, made lasting friendships and finished his studies in four years.

During his junior year summer, he worked at Bombardier Transportation, an engineering manufacturing firm that specializes in mass/light transit. He was hired immediately upon graduation by Converteam, Inc., an electrical power conversion company with multinational presence.

This past October, he completed a three-month assignment in San Diego, working on ship electrical systems for the U.S. Navy, and was anticipating his next project in Illinois at the time of his death.

Based upon the accounts of co-workers and supervisors from both companies who attended his funeral, it became evident to us that he was destined for greatness.

He maintained his friendships at home; some of the good young men who carried his casket remarked to us what a positive influence he had been in their lives. They were men enough to shed tears openly.

Jonathan had the rare ability to interact with ease across generations. He was comfortable with his parents, their friends, his aunts and uncles, and especially his grandmother, who he regarded as one of his best friends.

My husband and I considered him as one of our own. Our children and Jonathan were more like siblings than cousins. His enjoyable company added dimension to our family life.

Always self-effacing, he would never trumpet his own accomplishments, preferring to keep humility as his guide.

Tragically, we were not given the gift of being able to see his full potential. He was on the brink of true self-actualization when his life was cut short. He would have been 23 this Feb. 10.

This is the Jonathan Murt we want you to know.

Debra and John Danek
Carroll Township

Health care costs to nearly double by 2017

Projected $4.3 trillion figure amount to 20 percent of GNP.

By KEVIN FREKING
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — By 2017, total health care spending will double to more than $4 trillion a year, accounting for one of every $5 the nation spends, the federal government projects.

The 6.7 percent annual increase in spending — nearly three times the rate of inflation— will be largely driven by higher prices and an increased demand for care, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services said Monday. Other factors in the mix include a growing and aging population. The first wave of baby boomers become eligible for Medicare beginning in 2011.

With the aging population, the federal government will be picking up the tab for a growing share of the nation's medical expenses.

Overall, federal and state governments accounted for about 46 percent of health expenditures in 2006. That percentage will increase to 49 percent over the next decade.

"Health is projected to consume an expanding share of the economy, which means that policymakers, insurers and the public will face increasingly difficult decisions about the way health care is delivered and paid for," CMS economists said.

Overall health care spending in 2017 was estimated to increase to $4.3 trillion. That would be about 20 percent of U.S. gross domestic product, or GDP, the total monetary value of all finished goods and services produced in a country.

In 2006, people and the government spent $2.1 trillion on health care, an average of $7,026 a person. In 2017, health spending will cost an estimated $13,101 a person.

In his budget for next year, President Bush recommended slowing the yearly growth of Medicare from about 7 percent to about 5 percent.

The slowdown would occur primarily by freezing reimbursement rates for the next three years to scores of health care providers, such as hospitals, nursing homes and home health centers. Bush also proposed requiring wealthier Medicare beneficiaries to pay higher monthly premiums when participating in Medicare's prescription drug coverage plan.

Those recommendations would reduce spending by nearly $178 billion over five years, but have little chance of passage in Congress. Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt has acknowledged the unpopularity of the recommendations, but he said politicians must make some hard decisions. The longer lawmakers wait, the more difficult the decisions will be.

"Medicare, on its current course, is not sustainable," Leavitt testified.

Democratic lawmakers also have proposed ways to slow health spending, primarily by trimming payments to private insurers who oversee health coverage for nearly 9 million Medicare beneficiaries. A growing number of the nation's elderly and disabled are electing to get health coverage through private plans that contract with the federal government and government economists predicted that trend will continue. Now, about one in six beneficiaries get their health benefits through a private plan. By 2017, more than one in four beneficiaries will get their coverage that way, Medicare officials said.

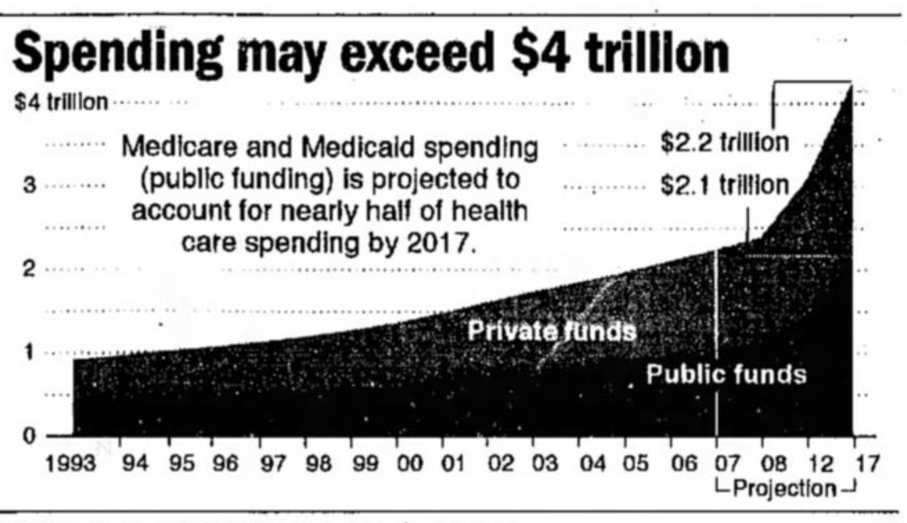
Health experts tell Congress that Medicare pays much more for each beneficiary who opts for a private plan than it would if they stayed in the traditional Medicare program, which reimburses providers at a set fee for a particular service. That difference increases the burden on taxpayers as well as beneficiaries, because participants pay higher monthly Medicare premiums.

The government economists say it's hardly a new trend that the health care sector will grow more quickly than the overall economy. Over the past 30 years, health spending has exceeded growth in the gross domestic product by about 2.7 percentage points each year. Over the coming decade, that difference is expected to narrow slightly. Still, the continued gap is worrisome, said the agency's acting administrator, Kerry Weems. He said consumers, particularly businesses, need more information about the quality and cost of care.

"We have an approaching crisis in this country unless we change the way we do business," Weems said.

Within the health sector, economists project that spending on hospital care will increase at rate of 6.9 percent a year over the coming decade, spending on physician services will rise 5.9 percent annually, and spending on nursing homes will grow 5.2 percent a year.

The economists' report will be published online by the journal Health Affairs.


Spending may exceed $4 trillion
$4 trillion
3
2
1
0
Medicare and Medicaid spending (public funding) is projected to account for nearly half of health care spending by 2017.
$2.2 trillion
$2.1 trillion
Private funds
Public funds
1993 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 12 17
Projection
SOURCE: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
AP

Dementia antibiotics overused?

CHICAGO (AP) — A woman dying of Alzheimer's has a fever. Should she be given antibiotics?

Many people would say yes. But a provocative new study suggests that antibiotics are overused in people dying of dementia diseases and should be considered more carefully because of the growing problem of drug-resistant superbugs.

The study raises ethical questions about when it's acceptable to withhold perhaps futile treatment and let people die, and whether public health issues should ever be considered.

"Advanced dementia is a terminal illness," said study co-author Dr. Susan Mitchell, a senior scientist with the Harvard-affiliated Hebrew Senior Life Institute for Aging Research in Boston. "If we substituted 'end-stage cancer' for 'advanced dementia,' I don't think people would have any problem understanding this."

Many experts, including the Alzheimer's Association, consider Alzheimer's and other dementias to be fatal brain diseases.

In the study, more than 200 people with advanced dementia from Boston-area nursing homes were followed for 18 months or until their deaths. Almost half died during that time. All the patients failed to recognize loved ones, had stopped speaking, were unable to walk or feed themselves and were incontinent.

HEALTH BRIEFS

MVH releases weekly schedule

Monongahela Valley Hospital will offer the following programs next week:

■ March 4, 5, 6 - Managing Your Diabetes, 8:30 a.m., Center for Fitness and Health, Mon-Vale HealthPLEX, Rostraver Township. 3-day, 2 hour per day education series that focuses on diabetes self-management and care. Registration is required at least one-week prior to the start of classes. For more information or to register, call (724) 258-1483.

■ March 5 - Breast Cancer Support Group, 6 p.m., Anthony M. Lombardi Education Conference Center. This support group is free and open to all breast cancer patients and their families. For more information, call (724) 258-1704.

■ March 5, 12, 19, 26 - Childbirth Preparation Classes - 7 to 9 p.m., Mon-Vale HealthPLEX, Rostraver Township. A four-week series of prenatal/parent education classes designed to increase understanding of pregnancy and family relationships. Topics include: Expectations, Nutrition, Fetal Growth and Development, Breathing and Relaxation and Baby Care. For more information, call (724) 258-BABY (2229).

■ March 8 - Coaches Clinic for Student Athletes, 8:30 a.m., education conference center. The Mon Valley Coach's Clinic will bring the latest in general sports, coaching and instructional information to male and female Mon Valley area students in grades nine through 12 and to those who interact with them. This informative day features keynote speaker Craig "The Wolf" Wolfley - former Steelers offensive lineman, No. 73, and current Steelers radio and TV network reporter. Other speakers include head strength and conditioning coach Buddy Morris from the University of Pittsburgh and his wife, Monica Morris, a nationally renowned athlete; Anne Lail speaking on Tobacco Prevention from Penn State Cooperative extension; Slippery Rock University Tight End Frank Cremonese who will discuss Strength Training After Injury; and Gene Belczyk from the Center for Fitness and Health who will discuss sports specific flexibility. Groups are invited but seating is limited. Register for the event by calling (724) 258-1318.

Exercise classes set for seniors

Jefferson Regional Senior Services announces its schedule of spring exercise classes for men and women ages 55 and older. Ten-week sessions offer a variety of workout options in aerobic dance, weight training, yoga and yolates.

Classes will begin the week of March 10 at the Senior Services offices, Sports Medicine Complex, Coal Valley Road, Jefferson Hills.

The class fee is $35 for each 10-week session of aerobic dance and weight training; classes will not be held the weeks of May 5 or May 12. Yoga and yolates classes are $45 for each 10-week session. Free parking is available. To register, call Senior Services at (412) 469-7099. A medical release is required to participate in all exercise classes.

The class schedule is as follows:

■ Weight Training: A one-hour workout that strengthens muscles and bones and improves balance and coordination. Participants are led through a series of standing and seated exercises to help tone and strengthen the body. Mondays from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. beginning March 10; Wednesdays from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. beginning March 12; Fridays from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. or 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. beginning March 14; or Saturdays from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. beginning March 15. Bring a water bottle and a one- to three-pound set of weights.

■ Aerobic Dance: A one-hour low-impact workout that is easy to follow and non-intimidating uses music from the big band to modern eras. Mondays from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. beginning March 10, or Wednesdays from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. beginning March 12. Bring a water bottle.

■ Yoga: Yoga is a philosophy and exercise system that combines movement and simple poses with deep breathing and meditation to promote health and relaxation as well as reduce fatigue. A wide range of seated, standing and balance exercises, Tuesdays from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. beginning April 8, or Thursdays from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. beginning April 10. Bring a mat or towel, yoga strap and one or two yoga blocks if available.

■ Yolates: A combination of yoga and Pilates exercises to improve flexibility, balance and posture. The focus is on safely strengthening and stretching the core muscle groups to trim the stomach and strengthen the back. Tuesdays from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. beginning April 8, or Thursdays from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. beginning April 10. Bring a mat or towel, yoga strap and one or two yoga blocks if available.

personal Best
women.mind.body.spirit
Reach Women in the Pittsburgh and surrounding areas with interests in:
health
fitness
nutrition
beauty
and over-all well being
For advertising information, contact your Trib Total Media Network Sales Representative or call 724.779.6944.
To begin your FREE subscription beginning with the April 2008 issue to Personal Best Magazine, fill out this form and mail it to: Personal Best Magazine, c/o Trib Total Media, 535 Keystone Drive, Warrendale, PA 15086
Name_____
Address_____
City_____ State_____ Zip_____
TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

You are invited to register in advance for:
36-FUNCTION MULTIPHASIC BLOOD ANALYSIS
Saturday, March 29, 2008
7 to 10 a.m.
Anthony M. Lombardi Education Conference Center
Only $20.00 per person
By Appointment Only
Call 724-258-1282
Appointments taken Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.
ADDITIONAL TESTS AVAILABLE
Please Call for More Information
Just a small sample of blood, drawn by medical professionals, can detect diseases of the...
■ HEART
■ LIVER
■ KIDNEYS
■ CIRCULATORY SYSTEM
MVH Monongahela Valley Hospital
HEALTH CARE
Sponsored by MVH and Its Medical Staff

TV LISTINGS

Being 'one of the guys' is insulting to many gals

DEAR ABBY: I had to write regarding the letter from "Disgruntled in Lompoc, Calif." (Dec. 28), whose pet peeve is waitstaff (in particular) referring to her and her lady friends as "guys."

Well, 3,000 miles away, I, too, am sick to death of being called a guy. When it happens to me, I tell my server that "the last time I looked, I was NOT a guy!" Sometimes they get it — sometimes not.

I notice that on some of the TV shows I watch, even women refer to a group of people as "guys." I hate it — and would ask you, with your worldwide influence, to bring the issue forward. We are NOT "guys," we are "people" or "folks" or "ladies and gentlemen"! Or else, Merriam-Webster will have to change its definition of "guys." Thanks for

letting me vent. — **JACKI IN WILBRAHAM, MASS.**

DEAR JACKI: I had no idea when I printed that letter that it would hit such a nerve with my readers, but oh, sister, have I heard from them! While I, too, would prefer to have my femininity acknowledged rather than to be called a guy, I would, however, not let it ruin my meal if it happened.

And, as to Merriam-Webster's definition of a "guy," — my 11th Edition says in black and white that "guy" can refer to "any person" when used colloquially. Frankly, I found it so surprising that I looked in the American Heritage College Dictionary to see if there was agreement, and it also states: "Informal (ital.): Persons of either sex."

Read on:

DEAR ABBY: As I have told my ESL students, "guys" is acceptable colloquial English. In the singular, it refers to a male, of course. However, in the plural it may refer to males, males and females, or even just females. — **NICK LONGO, RACINE, WIS.**

DEAR ABBY: Almost 40 years ago, my wife's college roommates would tease her for using the phrase "you guys." (My wife was born in central California.) Our college chums were all from down South.

If familiar (perhaps overly familiar) slang bothers "Disgruntled," all she has to do is reply, "I'm not a guy. Are YOU?" Nothing will change behavior quicker than public humiliation. — **FAITHFUL READER IN FORT WORTH (OR AS WE SAY IT HERE, 'FOAT WUTH')**

DEAR ABBY: Fresh out of college, I moved to Oklahoma from central Illinois to teach high school. In front of my first class I said, "OK, you guys, take out your books." The boys did, but the girls just sat there. That's when I learned to say, "Y'all" if I wanted the whole class to respond.

I hope "Disgruntled" isn't too offended. It's not meant to be disrespectful. It's a regional colloquialism. — **GRETCHEN IN SPRINGFIELD, ILL.**

DEAR ABBY: I was at a restaurant once with two women and a male friend who happened to have longer hair than either of us at the time. Our server asked, "How are you ladies doing this evening?" only to be embarrassed upon learning the sex of our male companion — who also happened to be the godson of the restaurant's owner.

Sometimes it's better to be safe than sorry, and "folks" is the safe route. — **ROSE IN OAKLAND, CALIF.**

DEAR ABBY: Why do young people insist on using that term? First, it is unprofessional, and second, are they blind?

My solution is to smile sweetly and ask, "Honey, do I LOOK like a guy to you? Because if I do, you need your eyes checked." This is just some "food" for thought. — **A LADY IN CUMBERLAND, MD.**

(Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.)

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

TUESDAY EVENING — FEB. 26, 2008

MOVIES | TALK | NEWS | KIDS | SPORTS

	6PM	6:30	7PM	7:30	8PM	8:30	9PM	9:30	10PM	10:30	11PM	11:30	12AM	12:30	1AM	1:30	2AM	2:30
CBS (2) KDKA (7) WTRF (10) WTAJ	(2) (7) News (N)/ (10) WTAJ News at 6 (N)	(7) (10) CBS Evening News With Katie Couric (N)	(2) CBS Evening News-Couric/ (7) Entertainment/ (10) Inside	(2) The Insider (N)/ (7) Inside Edition/ (10) Two and a Half Men	NCIS "Designated Target" The team meets a woman searching for her husband, a political refugee from Africa.		Big Brother: 'Til Death Do You Part The veto meeting and competition. (N)		Jericho "Jennings & Rali" Jake and the rangers take their survival into their own hands. (N)		(2) (7) News (N)/ (10) WTAJ News at 11 (N)	Late Show With David Letterman Courteney Cox; Thomas Friedman. (N)		The Late Late Show With Craig Ferguson Regis Philbin; Shanna Moakler. (N)		(2) Extra/ (7) The Insider/ (10) Everybody Loves Raymond "Angry Sex"	(2) (10) Paid/ (7) That '70s Show Kelso's in the driver's seat.	(2) Guthy-Renker.com/ (7) (10) CBS Up to the Minute (N)
ABC (4) WTAE (23) WATM	(4) News (N)/ (23) The Insider (N)	ABC's World News With Charles Gibson (N)	(4) Inside Edition/ (23) Jeopardy! (N)	(4) Entertainment Tonight/ (23) Wheel of Fortune	Just for Laughs Palm reader sees humor. (N)	Just for Laughs A door slams on a man's hand.	According to Jim Cheryl has an announcement. (N)	Carpoolers Marmaduke moves in with Laird. (N)	Primetime: What Would You Do? Hidden cameras capture people's reactions. (iTV, Series Premiere) (N)		(4) Ch. 4 Action News at 11 (N)/ (23) News (N)	Nightline (N)	Jimmy Kimmel Live Nate Berkus; Mary J. Blige. (N)		(4) Oprah Winfrey/ (23) Paid	(23) Paid	(4) Paid/ (23) Jerry Springer (N)	(4) Ch. 4 Action News at 11
NBC (6) WJAC (9) WTOV (11) WPXI	News (N)	NBC Nightly News (N)	(6) Entertainment Tonight (N)/ (9) (11) Jeopardy! (N)	(6) Who Wants to Be a Millionaire (N)/ (9) (11) Wheel of Fortune (N)	(6) (11) The Biggest Loser: Couples One team is surprised with a trip to Las Vegas. (N)/ (9) quarterlife Dylan struggles at a magazine with a boss who steals her ideas. (N)		(9) Presidential Debate Democrats.		(6) (11) quarterlife Dylan struggles at a magazine with a boss who steals her ideas. (Series Premiere) (N)		News (N)	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno Dennis Quaid; Lupe Flasco. (N)		Late Night With Conan O'Brien Will Ferrell; Rashida Jones; Fred Simmons. (N)		Last Call With Carson Daly Fat Joe. (N)	Poker After Dark Patrick Antonius; Johnny Chan; Roland de Wolfe; Daniel Negreanu; Gus Hansen; John Juanda. (N)	
FOX (8) WWCP (53) WPGH	(8) The Simpsons/ (53) Two and a Half Men	(8) That '70s Show/ (53) Frasier	(8) The Simpsons/ (53) Two and a Half Men	Seinfeld Bette Midler plays in softball game.	American Idol Male singers perform. (N)			Back to You "Cradle to Grave" Kelly gives a eulogy.	(8) News (N)/ (53) Channel 11 News on FOX 53 at 10	(8) Seinfeld "The Keys" Kramer heads for California.	(8) The King of Queens/ (53) Seinfeld	(8) Frasier "The Perfect Guy"/ (53) Scrubs	(8) ★★★ Twister (1996)/ (53) Scrubs	(53) Paid	(53) Paid	(53) Paid	(53) Sex and the City Carrie travels with Aleksandr.	(8) Paid (Joined in Progress)/ (53) Cheaters
(13) WQED	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N)		Nightly Business Report	OnQ Magazine	Nova "The Four Winged Dinosaur" (N)		Frontline/World "State of Emergency" (N)		Independent Lens "Hard Road Home" (N)		Charlie Rose (N)			OnQ Magazine	Tavis Smiley Max Siegel. (N)	Antiques Roadshow "San Antonio, Texas"		American Experience "Buffalo Bill"	
(19) WPCW	The People's Court (N)		Everybody-Raymond	Everybody-Raymond	Reaper "The Cop"		One Tree Hill "For Tonight You're Only Here To Know" (N)		The 10 O'Clock News	The Nightly Sports Call	Malcolm in the Middle	According to Jim	That '70s Show	King of the Hill	South Park "Volcano"	Paid	Paid	Paid
(22) WPMY	The Simpsons	Family Guy	The Simpsons	Family Guy	Street Patrol	Street Patrol	Jail (N)	Jail	TMZ (N)	Frasier	Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Paid	Paid	Bernie Mac	My Wife-Kids	Half & Half	Half & Half
(40) WPCB	The 700 Club		Focus 4		7th St. Theater	Way Of Master	F4 Generation	Today God	Day-Discovery	Quick Study	CBN News	Richard and Lindsay Roberts	Way Of Master		Focus 4		Gaither Homecoming Hour	
(57) WBGN	Temptation (N)	Temptation	Degrassi: Next	Reno 911!	The Nanny	Mad Abt. You	★★½ Killer Klowns From Outer Space (1988)				Reno 911!	Blind Date	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid
A&E	Cold Case Files		CSI: Miami "Freaks & Tweaks"		The First 48		The First 48		Parking Wars	Parking Wars	Parking Wars	Parking Wars	The First 48		The First 48		Parking Wars	Parking Wars
ABCFAM	8 Simple Rules	8 Simple Rules	Grounded-Life	Grounded-Life	America's Funniest Home		Funniest Home Videos		Funniest Home Videos		The 700 Club		Wildfire "Friendship/Passion"		Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid
AMC	★★★ The Godfather, Part III (1990)				★★ Striking Distance (1993)				★★½ Dante's Peak (1997)					★★½ Hellfighters (1968) Firefighters travel the globe battling oil-well blazes.				
ANPL	The Crocodile Hunter		Seven Deadly Strikes		Barracudas		Piranhas		Animal Planet Heroes Phoenix		Barracudas		Piranhas		Animal Planet Heroes Phoenix		Seven Deadly Strikes	
BBC	Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares		BBC World News America		Last Restaurant Standing		Last Restaurant Standing (N)		BBC World News America		Last Restaurant Standing		Last Restaurant Standing		Last Restaurant Standing		Last Restaurant Standing	
BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live (N)			Hell Date Spl.	★★½ Mo' Money (1992) Premiere.				Rip the Runway		Malcolm-Eddie	Malcolm-Eddie	Jamie Foxx	Jamie Foxx	★★½ Mo' Money (1992)			
BRAVO	The Millionaire Matchmaker		The Millionaire Matchmaker		The Millionaire Matchmaker		The Millionaire Matchmaker		The Millionaire Matchmaker (N)		The Millionaire Matchmaker		Project Runway "Reunion"		The Millionaire Matchmaker		Housewives	Matchmaker
CMT	Trick My Truck	Trick My Truck	Trick My Truck	Trick My Truck	Gone Country	Gone Country	Gone Country	Gone Country	Redneck Wed.	Redneck Wed.	Redneck Wed	Redneck Wed	Home Videos	Home Videos	Home Videos	Home Videos	CMT Music	
CNBC	Mad Money		Kudlow & Company		Fast Money		Deal or No Deal		The Big Idea With Donny Deutsch		Mad Money		Deal or No Deal		The Big Idea With Deutsch		Paid	Paid
CNN	The Situation Room		Lou Dobbs Tonight		CNN Election Center		Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360				Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360		Anderson Cooper 360	
COM	★★★ Dirty Rotten Scoundrels		Scrubs	Scrubs	Daily Show	Colbert Report	Futurama	South Park	Cedric the Entertainer		Daily Show	Colbert Report	Cedric the Entertainer		Daily Show	Colbert Report	★★ Book of Love (1990)	
CSPAN	House of Representatives				Tonight From Washington						Capital News Today						Today in Washington	
DISC	Cash Cab	Cash Cab	How It's Made	How It's Made	Dirty Jobs Wine making.		Dirty Jobs Food-related jobs.		How It's Made	How It's Made	MythBusters		Dirty Jobs Wine making.		Dirty Jobs Food-related jobs.		How It's Made	How It's Made
DISNEY	Han. Montana	Han. Montana	Han. Montana	Zack & Cody	★★½ Toothless (1997)				That's-Raven	Life Derek	Zack & Cody	Han. Montana	Replacements	Kim Possible	Emperor	American Drgn	Buzz Lightyear	Timon-Pumbaa
E!	Heath Ledger	Chelsea Lately	E! News (N)	The Daily 10	30 Most Outrageous Celebrity Feuds				Girl Next Door	Kardashians	E! News	Chelsea Lately	The Daily 10	Girl Next Door	True H'wood		E! News	Chelsea Lately
ESPN	SportsCenter		College Basketball Ohio State at Indiana.				College Basketball Tennessee at Vanderbilt.				SportsCenter		NFL Live (N)	Gamenight	SportsCenter		SportsCenter	
ESPNC	Stump-Schwab	Stump-Schwab	American Gladiators		Boxing: Ibeabuchi vs. Tua		RM Classic Car Auction		Who's Number 1?		Bull Riding		Boxing: Corrales vs. St. Clair		UWF Wrestling	UWF Wrestling	Can't Blame	Arliss
ESPN2	NASCAR Now	Rome-Burning	College Basketball Southern Illinois at Bradley.				NBA Coast-to-Coast					Mix Tape Tour	NASCAR Now	2007 World Series of Poker		2007 World Series of Poker		X Games
EWTN	Choices-Face	Road to Rome	Daily Mass: Our Lady		Mother Angelica-Classic		Religious	Holy Rosary	Threshold of Hope		Christ in City	Catholic	Daily Mass: Our Lady		Mother Angelica-Classic		Threshold of Hope	
FNC	Special Report		Fox Report-Shepard Smith		The O'Reilly Factor		Hannity & Colmes		On the Record-Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Hannity & Colmes		On the Record-Van Susteren		Special Report	
FOOD	Minute Meals	Minute Meals	Emeril Live Multicultural cuisine.		Good Eats	Good Eats	Bobby Flay	Bobby Flay	Ace of Cakes	A Cook's Tour	Good Eats	Unwrapped	Bobby Flay	Bobby Flay	Ace of Cakes	A Cook's Tour	Good Eats	Unwrapped
FSN	Final Score	SportsBeat	NHL Hockey Pittsburgh Penguins at New York Islanders.					FSN Live	In My Words	Final Score	Best Damn Sports Show Period		Final Score	Best Damn Sports Show Period		In My Words	Final Score	Final Score
FX	★★★ The Rundown (2003)				★★ Maid in Manhattan (2002)				★★ Maid in Manhattan (2002)				'70s Show	'70s Show	'70s Show	'70s Show	Paid	Guthy-Renker
GOLF	Golf-Academy	Inside PGA	Golf-Academy	Road Trip (N)	The Approach	Golf Central	Big Break VII: Reunion		Big Break VII: Reunion		Top 10 (N)	Golf Central	Big Break VII: Reunion		Inside PGA	Road Trip	The Approach	Golf Central
GSN	Lingo	Whammy	Weakest Link		Who Wants to Be a Millionaire		Family Feud	Family Feud	How Much	Chain Reaction	Lingo	Whammy	Who Wants to Be a Millionaire		Trivia Trap	Now You See	High Stakes Poker	
HALL	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Walker, Texas Ranger		Walker, Texas Ranger		A Stranger's Heart (2007)				Murder, She Wrote		Murder, She Wrote		Walker, Texas Ranger		Walker, Texas Ranger	
HGTV	Small Space	If Walls Could	House Worth?	House Hunters	Designed-Sell	My Kitchen	Desperate Sp.	Open House	House Hunters	Secrets Sell	House Worth?	Hid Potential	Designed-Sell	My Kitchen	Desperate Sp.	Open House	House Hunters	Secrets Sell
HIST	Modern Marvels		Modern Marvels "Pirate Tech"		Modern Marvels "Trucks"		The Universe (N)		Mega Disasters Locusts.		Modern Marvels		Modern Marvels "Trucks"		The Universe		Mega Disasters Locusts.	
LIFE	Reba	Reba	Still Standing	Still Standing	Reba	Reba	Fatal Desire (2006)				Will & Grace	Will & Grace	Frasier	Frasier	Golden Girls	Golden Girls	The Nanny	Paid
MSNBC	Tucker		Hardball		Countdown-Olbermann		Presidential Debate Democrats.			Presidential Candidates Debate Analysis			Presidential Debate Democrats.			Presidential Candidates Debate Analysis		
MTV	Making the Band 4		Domenico's	True Life	True Life Separate Identities.		True Life		Life of Ryan	Rob & Big (N)	Rob & Big	Jackass "Gumball Rally" Race.	Jackass		Jackass	Rob & Big	Life of Ryan	Next
NICK	iCarly	iCarly	Drake & Josh	Zoey 101	SpongeBob	Drake & Josh	George Lopez	George Lopez	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Home Improve.
OXY	Bad Girls Club	Bad Girls Club	Bad Girls Club	Bad Girls Club	Bad Girls Club	Bad Girls Club	Bad Girls Club	Bad Girls Club	Bad Girls Club	Bad Girls Club	Abbey	Bad Girls Club	The Tyra Banks Show		Bad Girls Club	Abbey	The Tyra Banks Show	
PCN	PCN Tours		To the Best of My Knowledge		PA Senate Appropriations Committee-Hearings		Pa House Appropriations Committee				Pa House Appropriations Committee			PA Senate Appropriations Committee-Hearings			Deutsche Welle News	
PCNC	Lynn Cullen Show Talk show.		News	News	NightTalk With Ann Devlin		News		NightTalk With Ann Devlin		Honsberger	Fedko Fone	News	News	News	Paid	NightTalk With Ann Devlin	
SCIFI	Stargate SG-1 "New Ground"		Scary But True	Scary But True	Scariest Places on Earth		Scariest Places on Earth		ECW Chavo's title jeopardy.		★★★ X (1996) Premiere.				Twilight Zone	Twilight Zone	The X-Files "Rush"	
SPIKE	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation		CSI: NY "Blink"		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation		Star Trek: Voyager "Rise"		Star Trek: Deep Space Nine	
TBS	Friends	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	The Office	The Office	10 Items-Less	Sex and-City	Sex and-City	★★½ Harold & Kumar Go to White Castle			10 Items-Less	The Sixth Man
TCM	★★★ Cheers for Miss Bishop (1941)				★★★ The Talk of the Town (1942)				★★★★ The Miracle of Morgan's Creek (1944)				★★★½ To Be or Not to Be (1942)			★★★★ Hamlet (1948)		
TLC	Property Ladder		Flip That House		Flip House	Flip House	Flip House	Flip House	LA Ink Kat consults a doctor.		LA Ink Kat consults a doctor.		Flip House	Flip House	Flip House	Flip House	Flip That House	
TNT	Law & Order "Possession"		Law & Order "Caviar Emptor"		Law & Order "Acid"		Law & Order "Fallout"		Bones "A Boy in a Bush"		Cold Case "Daniela"		Without a Trace "The Season"		Without a Trace		Without a Trace "Bait"	
TOON	Scooby-Doo	Scooby-Doo	Codename	Camp Lazlo	Gym Partner	Johnny Test	Grim Advent.	Courage-Dog	Ed, Edd	Naruto	Family Guy	Family Guy	Robot Chicken	Full-Alchemist	Ghost in Shell	Eureka 7	Family Guy	Family Guy
TRAVEL	Top Ten Bridges		Bizarre Foods-Zimmern		Anthony Bourdain		Bizarre Foods-Zimmern		Bizarre Foods-Zimmern		Anthony Bourdain		Anthony Bourdain		Bizarre Foods-Zimmern		Bizarre Foods-Zimmern	
TRUTV	World's Wildest Police Videos		Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	World's Wildest		Under Fire	Under Fire	Forensic Files	Forensic Files	Cops	Cops	World's Wildest		Under Fire	Under Fire
TVLAND	Bev. Hillbillies	Bev. Hillbillies	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	★★★ The Buddy Holly Story (1978)					Bev. Hillbillies	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Just Shoot Me	Just Shoot Me	Bev. Hillbillies	Bev. Hillbillies	Sanford & Son	The Jeffersons
USA	Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Law & Order: SVU		★★ Freddy vs. Jason (2003)			
VH1	The Flavor of Love		Celebrity Rehab With Dr. Drew		Celebrity Rehab With Dr. Drew		Rock of Love-Bret Michaels		Rock of Love-Bret Michaels		My Fair Brady	Scott Baio	★★½ Roll Bounce (2005) A roller-skater prepares for a big showdown.				Salt N Pepa	
VS.	NHL Hockey: Flyers at Sabres		NHL Hockey Minnesota Wild at Washington Capitals.					Hockey	WEC WrekCage		Boxing: Hinojosa vs. Huerta		WEC WrekCage		WEC WrekCage		Boxing: Hinojosa vs. Huerta	
WE	Twister Sisters		48 Hours "To Catch a Killer"		48 Hours Mystery "Murder on Lockhart Road"				JonBenet: Pageant Queen		Painted Babies		48 Hours Mystery "Murder on Lockhart Road"				JonBenet: Pageant Queen	
WGN	Funniest Pets	Funniest Pets	Funniest Home Videos		Funniest Pets	Funniest Pets	Funniest Pets	Funniest Pets	WGN News at Nine (N)		Scrubs	Scrubs	Corner Gas	Becker	Funniest Home Videos		The Steve Wilkos Show (N)	
ENC	★★ Steel	★★★ Cool Runnings (1993)			★★½ Uncle Buck (1989)				★★ The Great Outdoors (1988)		★★ Brewster's Millions (1985)				★★ Mulholland Falls (1996)			
HBO	★½ Date Movie (2006)		★★ Firehouse Dog (2007)				In Treatment	In Treatment	★★½ The Gates (2005) Premiere.		Bernard and Doris (2008)					★★ Letters From a Killer (1998)		
MAX	Trading Places	★★ Poseidon (2006)			★½ The Number 23 (2007)				★★★ Blood Diamond (2006)					Girl From B.L.K.L.N.I. (2007)			★ Friends & Lovers (1999)	
SHOW	★★ The Florentine (1999)		★★★ Akeelah and the Bee (2006)				The L Word		★★½ Crank (2006)		★★★½ Pulp Fiction (1994)						★★½ The Big Squeeze	
STARZ	★½ Primeval (2007)		★★★½ The Lookout (2007)				★★½ Fun With Dick & Jane (2005)		★★ Perfect Stranger (2007)				★★★ Apocalypto (2006) The end of the Mayan civilization draws near.					
TMC	★★½ Legends of the Fall (1994)					★½ Love Stinks (1999)			.45 (2006)		★★½ Candy (2006)					★★★ Factotum (2005)		

Suitor found for Bonds?

A Florida newspaper reports that Tampa Bay officials have discussed signing home run champ Barry Bonds. **2B**

Valley SPORTS

Perfect year possible

Tiger Woods' early success has sparked talk about an unbeaten season in 2008. **2B**

Backyard Brawl

Pitt's annual showdown with West Virginia will take place Nov. 28, but it won't finish the season for either school. **3B**

Sports Trivia

Which California University woman basketball player holds the school record with 12 3-pointers in a game? **2B**

Last night's games

Philadelphia 4, Buffalo 3, SO
Toronto 5, Ottawa 0

Brian **HERMAN**

Elias returns as AG's coach

The WPIAL's newest football coach is no rookie.

Albert Gallatin has replaced Tim Tracy following a disastrous 1-8 season in his first year with Bill Elias.

Elias' name should ring a bell with folks from Belle Vernon, California and Perryopolis to name a few because those were among the sidelines where he spent some time in a coaching career that spans close to 30 years.

He spent three years at BVA's Jim Weir Stadium in the late 1980s on Bill Connors' staff.

At California, he worked on both the high school and college levels. He put in five seasons (1977-81) at Adamson Stadium working with California University's Hal Hunter, and returned to the community a decade later for three years as a Trojan assistant to Dick Fields with Bap Manzini also on the staff.

Elias also had two stints at Frazier. He was the Commodores' boss for four years (1973-77) reviving a program which had lost 25 in a row. He won seven games in his second year.

Elias returned to Perryopolis for a couple of seasons to coach with Tom Salisbury in 1990.

He started his coaching career in 1966 as Fred Botti's defensive coordinator and later was the Mustangs' coach between 1973-77 and again between 1981-87.

After 11 years away from the game, Elias came back as an assistant to Chuck Colborn at Albert Gallatin.

Elias knows he's facing a tough job at a school that has won only 11 games over the past five years.

"We have to change the attitude around here," said Elias, a retired teacher who's on the Laurel Highlands School Board where he serves as co-chairman of the athletic committee. "We have to get kids in the junior high involved and make it fun so they want to come to practice."

Elias admits he's old school.

"Blocking and tackling are the two basics," he said. "I focus on those two things and I'm looking for other coaches with the same philosophy."

■ While most high school football teams have filled their opening game slot, one that hasn't is Thomas Jefferson. According to TJ coach Bill Cherpak, no one wants to open the campaign against his defending WPIAL and PIAA Class AAA champions.

The Jaguars had started their last eight seasons with Belle Vernon Area, but lost the opener when the Leps were moved into the Big Seven Conference in last month's realignment.

■ To B.B. of Rostraver Township: The Monessen High boys' basketball team is in the same PIAA bracket with WPIAL Class AA champion Jeannette and Terrelle Pryor. If the Greyhounds and Jayhawks both win their next two games, they'll meet in the quarterfinals March 8.

The PIAA Class AA boys' championship game is 2 p.m. March 15 at Penn State's Bryce Jordan Center. The PIAA Class A girls' title contest is the same day at noon.

■ And thanks to Jerry Stasicha of Rostraver Township who says old age is like everything else. To be a success, you've got to start young!

King, Slaton ready for NFL?

Penn State cornerback, WVU running back coming off disappointing seasons.

By SCOTT BROWN
For The Valley Independent

INDIANAPOLIS — Ready or not, NFL, here they come.

And the question regarding Penn State cornerback Justin King and West Virginia running Steve Slaton isn't so much if they are ready for the NFL, but whether each would have been better served by returning to school for his senior season.

That's not just because King and Slaton entered the NFL Draft in a year that is brimming with talent at their respective position.

Neither player, as it turned out, quite lived up to the advance billing he took into the 2007 season.

Slaton, a preseason Heisman Trophy candidate, rushed for 1,051 yards after gaining 1,744 his sophomore season at West Virginia, and his average per carry dipped from 7.0 to 5.0 yards.

King, meanwhile, did not dominate the way most people expected after a sophomore season in which the Gateway High graduate shut down several top receivers, most notably Ohio State's Ted Ginn and Tennessee's Robert Meachem (both were first-round picks last year).

But one factor that weighed heavily into his leaving Penn State early is the fact that the 5-foot-11, 192-pound King graduated in 3 1/2 years.

With his degree in letters, arts and sciences in hand, King did not see any reason why he should put off embarking on what he hopes will be his job for many years to come.

"My parents always told me that when you have your education, you have more options so take that serious, get that done and you have the option to play football (in the NFL) or go back and play college football," said King, who graduated from Gateway early so he could enroll at Penn State. "It all worked out the way I kind of planned."

King said the NFL advisory board he consulted before entering the draft told him he'd be a second- or third-round pick. He is the 11th-rated cornerback in the draft, according to Scouts, Inc., but King hopes to separate himself from some of his peers by turning in a low time in the 40-yard dash, which he'll run today at the NFL Scouting Combine.

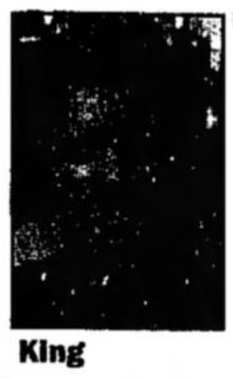
Like King, Slaton's game is predicated on speed.

He had hoped to run a better 40-yard dash time — Slaton didn't break 4.5 when he ran it last Saturday — but his career at West Virginia left little doubt that he has an extra gear that will be needed at the next level.

Lightly recruited coming out of high school in suburban Philadelphia, Slaton burst onto the scene as a true freshman and finished his career with 50 rushing touchdowns.

The tumult that marked the end of West Virginia's season in 2007 also brought an end to Slaton's decorated college career.

He said he decided to turn pro after his position coach, Calvin Magee, joined former WVU coach Rich Rodriguez at Michigan.



King

Slaton

Slaton projects as a second- or third-round pick in the draft, and is the 10th-ranked running back in the draft, according to Scouts, Inc.

Whether he is big enough to be an every-down back in the NFL is anyone's guess. The 5-9 Slaton weighed in at just 197 pounds at the Combine.

Not that his size is a concern to Slaton.

"I had a chance to meet Tony Dorsett in Connecticut last year and he said I remind him of himself," Slaton said.

"We're about the same size. After taking some advice from him, I feel confident."

Associated Press

Carl Edwards does a backflip off of his car after winning a rain-delayed NASCAR Sprint Cup Auto Club 500 Monday.

Edwards wins rain-delayed race

Driver appears back in form after picking up eighth Cup victory.

FONTANA, Calif. (AP) — The latest race-winning performance by Carl Edwards was no surprise to his team's co-owner.

"Carl is approaching the top of his game and I hope we'll be able to keep him there for a long time," Jack Roush said Monday after Edwards charged from third place late in the race to grab a victory in the rain-delayed Auto Club 500.

For Edwards, his eighth Cup victory was a sign that he is back to the form that saw him win four races and finish third in the points in 2005, his first full season in Cup. It was also a signal that at least one Sprint Cup team is ready to take on Hendrick Motorsports.

Edwards finished ahead of Hendrick teammates Jimmie Johnson and Jeff Gordon. In a race that resumed with the 88th of 250 laps, Edwards assumed the lead for good with 13 laps left.

"I hope it's an indication we've caught up with them," Edwards said after the eighth victory of his career. "They still were second and third and they were the guys to beat today. I hope this is a sign we're up to their standards, to their level."

Johnson took the green flag for the final restart in the lead with 26 laps left, but Edwards surged from third.

He then showed fine form on his traditional victory backflip after capturing the checkered flag in a race that ended under caution when Dale Jarrett spun on the final lap.

Edwards had it all but wrapped up at that point, driving his Roush Fenway No. 99 Ford to a lead of more than 4 seconds over Johnson. It was his first victory at Fontana but his seventh top-10 finish in eight starts at the track formerly known as California Speedway.

Gordon, who dominated Sunday's rain-interrupted racing, finished third. He was followed by Kyle Busch and Roush's Matt Kenseth, who had won the two previous February races at this track. Another Roush driver, Greg Biffle, won this event in 2005.

A year ago, Johnson and Gordon ended 1-2 in the season points. Johnson won his second straight Cup title and the team rolled up 18 victories in 36 races. The Hendrick contingent also won nine of the 16 races in which NASCAR's new Car of Tomorrow was raced.

The CoT is being used for the entire Sprint Cup schedule in 2008 and its debut on Auto Club Speedway's 2-mile oval was a triumph for Edwards and Roush Fenway Racing.

"I know that last year I would not have traded my car in for one of theirs at any of the CoT races towards the end of the year," Edwards said. "I thought we had the best car. Everyone knows, all the drivers know for sure, it's what you're sitting in a lot of the

(See EDWARDS, Page 3B)

Pirates set top of pitching rotation

Gorzelanny, Snell will get first two assignments.

BRADENTON, Fla. (AP) — Tom Gorzelanny and Ian Snell each had a strong 2007 for the Pirates. It appears each could get to pitch in an opener for the coming season.

Gorzelanny

The Pirates' pitching plan for the first few Grapefruit League games, posted Monday, has Gorzelanny starting the first game Thursday against the Phillies in Clearwater and Snell starting the next day against the Phillies at McKechnie Field.

If that 1-2 order holds up, Gorzelanny would pitch the season opener March 31 in Atlanta and, six games later, Snell would take the home opener April 7 against the Chicago Cubs.

"If it happens that way, that would be great," Gorzelanny said. "But I really just want to pitch."

Gorzelanny, 25, went 14-10 with a 3.88 ERA in his first full season with Pittsburgh.

Snell, 26, had a 9-12 record that did not reflect how well he pitched in his second full season. He had a 3.76 ERA and 177 strikeouts.

Manager John Russell and pitching coach Jeff Andrews, the man who drew up the spring plan, each said nothing should be read into it.

"That's just the way we set it up now to start getting guys a little work," Russell said. "There's no hidden agenda. Now, as we get deeper into camp, we'll have to make the decisions, obviously, because you have to line up."

The rest of the spring rotation has Zach Duke, Paul Maholm and Matt Morris following those two.

NOTES: Byung-Hyun Kim worked out with the Pirates for the first time Monday, but his activity was limited to long-tossing and fielding practice. His first pitching off the mound will come Friday. ... Second baseman Freddy Sanchez (shoulder) slightly ramped up his throwing, to about three-quarters strength, in infield drills.

SPORTS

Pens facing rough road

Team has six of its next seven games away from home.

By MIKE PRISUTA
For The Valley Independent

What was perceived as a potentially revealing three-game stretch instead only confirmed what already was suspected about the Penguins.

They can pretty much beat anyone, and they're also capable of losing to anyone.

The Pens displayed a flair for the dramatic in doing both on their trip to Montreal on Thursday and then in playing host to Ottawa and San Jose over the weekend.

They blew a lead in the third period and then rallied to re-take one against the Canadiens.

Then, they got really creative at home by blowing a 3-0 lead and losing with 3.2 seconds remaining in overtime against the Senators and by surrendering three goals on three shootout shots against the Sharks.

The only way to make any sense of that is to take the games for what they were worth individually, collectively and mathematically.

That would be four points.

Three consecutive against three of the better teams in the NHL, and the Pens advanced their cause in each of them.

That's cause for optimism, particularly as they continue to forge ahead minus Sidney Crosby.

But the upcoming stretch of six of seven on the road that begins tonight against the New York Islanders promises to be even more daunting.

And, after that, there's a run of 10 division games over the Pens' final 11 looming.

That, too, ought to answer a lot of questions -- at least until the Penguins commence their first-round playoff series.

It's safe to assume that by then Daniel Alfredsson's OT buzzer-beater and Joe Pavelski, Jonathan Cheechoo and Jeremy Roenick beating Ty Conklin on consecutive breakaways will have been reduced to an afterthought.

Much will change between now and then.

The Penguins, presumably, will have re-introduced Crosby and Gary Roberts into the mix and will have come to a definitive conclusion about whether they intend to go with Conklin or Marc-Andre Fleury in goal.

And a team or two will have seemingly loaded up in advance of this afternoon's trading deadline.

Still, the emergence of a legitimate favorite seems unlikely given the competitive jumble that is the Eastern Conference.

Had the playoffs begun last night, the Penguins would have drawn Montreal in the opening-round best-of-seven.

And that's a potential matchup that accurately can be handicapped as a toss-up at present, and likely still would be in another month and a half -- whether you're using an American or Canadian coin.

Those seeking clues as to what might happen in the playoffs are destined to be disappointed by the stretch run.

For now, every game's a big one until the next one.

It promises to be entertaining the rest of the way, but less than enlightening.

The revelations won't begin rolling in until mid-April.

Curran to Clarion

Belle Vernon Area's Shane Curran, who ran for more than 900 yards the past season, will attend Clarion University. He's joined by his mother, Diane; father Jack (standing left) and BVA coach Lou Rood.

Federal probe of Clemens' statements is considered

WASHINGTON (AP) -- A draft letter asking the Justice Department to investigate whether Roger Clemens made false statements to Congress has been written by House staffers, The New York Times reported on its Web site Monday.

The chief of staff for committee chairman Henry Waxman said no decision has been made on whether to ask for a criminal investigation.

The newspaper report cited three unidentified lawyers familiar with the matter.

The House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform held the Feb. 13 hearing at which personal trainer Brian McNamee repeated his allegations that he injected Clemens with steroids and human growth hormone — and Clemens repeated his denials. Both men spoke under oath during depositions and at the hearing.

"I am not going to comment about our internal process except to point out that no decision has been made yet on a referral," Waxman's chief of staff, Phil Schiliro, wrote in an e-mail to The Associated Press. "We are continuing our review and it is possible a decision will be announced this week."

Waxman and ranking Republican Tom Davis have been working in concert during the committee's look at steroids in baseball, dating to the 2005 hearing with Mark McGwire.

But as of Monday evening, the committee's two sides hadn't been in contact about a letter or a referral.

"We've not been told about a draft letter. We haven't been told to expect one. And we haven't been told about a process where anyone was supposed to draft a letter," committee Republican general counsel Keith Ausbrook said.

Also Monday, McNamee lawyer Earl Ward said his side will file papers by March 4 asking a federal judge to dismiss the defamation suit Clemens filed against McNamee. Ward said McNamee's legal team will cite "various grounds of jurisdiction as well as the deficiency in the pleading."

Tampa interested in Bonds?

By The Associated Press

Barry Bonds is looking for a job, and the Tampa Bay Rays may be interested in the home run king.

Rays manager Joe Maddon said he knew "little" about what was going on, but acknowledged some thought has been given to adding Bonds to the roster.

"A minor discussion was thrown out there a little bit, and it's really not gone any further than that," Maddon said after Monday's workout at the team's spring training facility in St. Petersburg, Fla. "That's all it is right now."

The St. Petersburg Times reported in Monday's editions that team officials have conferred among themselves about Bonds and other veteran unsigned free agents, such as Kenny Lofton and Mike Piazza. Andrew Friedman, Rays vice president of baseball operations, called the report a "non-story."

Bonds, who broke Hank Aaron's career home run record last summer, has pleaded not guilty to perjury and obstruction of justice charges stemming from testimony to a federal grand jury in 2003 in which he said he never knowingly used performance-enhancing drugs.

Cardinals manager Tony La Russa said he had interest in signing Bonds the last two offseasons, but each time the team's front office decided against it.

La Russa, who was looking for a power bat to protect No. 3 hitter Albert Pujols each year, said he was told the asking price for the slugger was too high. This winter, La Russa said he dropped the issue after a discussion with new general manager John Mozeliak.

"It became moot as soon as I raised it and they said no," La Russa said Sunday in Jupiter, Fla.

SPORTS DIGEST

Cal's Mbaye, Williams West Players of Week

California University senior Ali Mbaye and sophomore Brooque Williams were named PSAC West Players of the Week.

California to host basketball tourneys

California will host two boys basketball tournaments next month,

A sixth grade event is set March 6-9 with a middle school event March 13-16.

Interested teams should contact either Ray Huffman at (724) 938-7878 or Phil Pergola at (724) 785-5800, ext. 1136.

Mon Valley Thunder clinch playoff spot

The Mon Valley Thunder Midget A Major team clinched a playoff berth with a 5-3 win over North Pittsburgh.

Charlie Gilchrist had three goals with Chad Gwynn and Erik Vogt both adding a goal and assist. Joe Guarinoni had two assists with Jay Leppo, Robbie Wright and Brian Cook each getting one.

Goalie Adam Ziemianski made 30 saves.

Cal baseball opener switched to Thursday

California University's opening baseball doubleheader scheduled today at West Virginia State has been postponed and rescheduled Thursday at 1 p.m.

Bears extend Orton's contract

CHICAGO (AP) — The Chicago Bears and quarterback Kyle Orton agreed on a one-year contract extension that runs through the 2009 season, setting up a competition between him and Rex Grossman.

The deal comes two days after Chicago re-signed Grossman to a one-year contract and said he would compete for the starting quarterback job with Orton.

Lions release veteran cornerback

ALLEN PARK, Mich. (AP) — Veteran cornerback Fernando Bryant was released by the Detroit Lions after four seasons with the team.

The 5-foot-10, 175-pounder signed with Detroit as an unrestricted free agent in 2004 after five seasons with Jacksonville, who took him in the first round of the 1999 draft, 26th overall.

Avalanche takes gamble with Forsberg

DENVER (AP) — The Colorado Avalanche knew that Peter Forsberg and his balky right foot came with risks. They decided the gamble was worth taking.

The Avalanche and Forsberg agreed on a deal to bring the NHL's 2003 MVP back to Colorado through the end of the season.

Forsberg will earn around $1 million prorated from a one-year, $5 million deal, since there are about six weeks left in the regular season.

Flyers acquire Tampa Bay's Prospal

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — The Philadelphia Flyers bolstered their banged-up lineup by acquiring high-scoring forward Vaclav Prospal in a trade with Tampa Bay.

In exchange, the Flyers dealt the Lightning minor-league defenseman Alexandre Picard and a conditional pick in the 2009 draft. The move came a day before the NHL trade deadline.

Tampa Bay parted with Prospal but kept Dan Boyle, re-signing the defenseman to a six-year deal worth a reported $40 million.

Trivia answer

Lisa Thornton against Clarion in 1994.

SPORTS HISTORY

30 Years Ago

Delmer Beshore poured in 31 points in California State College's 101-81 romp at Alliance.

Kevin Tony poured in 31 points in Bentworth's 70-61 playoff loss to South Side Catholic at Washington and Jefferson College.

20 Years Ago

Monessen's Jimbo Malinchak and Norwin 's Barry Picchiarini, who transferred from Bell Vernon Area earlier in the year, were the only area cagers invited to the Dapper Dan Roundball Classic tryouts.

10 Years Ago

Former Pittsburgh Steeler receiver Ernie Mills signed a one-year, $325,000 deal with Dallas.

Tiger's play raises talk of perfection

Star golfer expects to appear in no more than 17 tournaments.

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

MARANA, Ariz. — The closest anyone came to a perfect season on the PGA Tour was Ben Hogan.

He won every major championship he played in 1953, and every official tournament he entered except for the Seminole Pro-Am Invitational, where he tied for second. Then again, Hogan only played six times that year because of battered legs from a bus accident.

Tiger Woods will play no more than 17 events on the PGA Tour this year, so a 2-0 start might be a little early for anyone to get excited.

Even so, expectations were as high as the desert sun at noon when Woods left Arizona with yet another victory. It was his fourth in a row on tour since early September, all done in record fashion.

He set a 72-hole scoring record at Cog Hill outside Chicago and won by eight shots at the Tour Championship and the Buick Invitational, both record margins. On Sunday, he smoked Stewart Cink 8 and 7 in the Accenture Match Play Championship, the biggest blowout in the finals in 10 years of a tournament that Woods considers the toughest to win this side of a major.

"I think this certainly is the best stretch I've ever played," Woods said.

Strong words — downright scary — considering that Woods won nine times, including three straight majors, in 2000 and that he won six consecutive PGA Tour events at the end of 2006, a streak that reached seven until losing in the Match Play the following year.

Woods, who also won in Dubai earlier this month, has never before started a season with three straight victories, and it is hard not to speculate how long he can keep winning given his history at some of the tournaments coming up.

Next is the Arnold Palmer Invitational March 13-16 at Bay Hill, where Woods won four straight times from 2000 to 2003. The week after that is the CA Championship at Doral, where he has won the last three years.

Then the Masters April 10-13.

"He just morphs his game into the courses," Cink said. "So I don't think there's a course that's going to present him with a real obstacle as far as him not being a favorite."

Woods did little to squash the notion of a perfect season when someone asked him if winning them all was within reason.

"That's my intent. That's why you play," Woods said after collecting his 63rd career tour victory and his 15th title in the World Golf Championships. "If you don't believe you can win an event, don't show up."

But it also is his intent to make every putt and hit every shot just how he wants. No one does that, of course. No one wins every tournament. Byron Nelson holds the record with 11 straight victories during a year in which he won 18 times in 30 events. That means he lost 12 times that year.

Tiger Woods

A perfect season in golf?

"I do find that laughable," Hal Sutton said Monday. "Anybody who knows golf knows that ain't going to happen. You can only own this game for a certain period of time. Even if your name is Tiger Woods, you don't own it forever."

Sutton was among those who beat Woods during a time when the world's No. 1 player looked unbeatable, going head-to-head with him at The Players Championship in 2000 and winning by one shot.

Curtis Strange is among those who played in the prime years of Woods and Jack Nicklaus, and he said it is pointless to compare generations. But he also found speculation of a perfect season to be "a little over the top."

SPORTS

NHL standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
New Jersey	37	21	5	79	170	148
Pittsburgh	35	21	7	77	186	171
N.Y. Rangers	32	24	8	72	166	158
Philadelphia	31	25	7	69	192	182
N.Y. Islanders	30	26	7	67	156	180

Northeast Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Ottawa	36	21	6	78	210	188
Montreal	33	21	9	75	196	180
Boston	32	23	6	70	165	167
Buffalo	30	24	9	69	188	178
Toronto	27	28	9	63	177	200

Southeast Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Carolina	32	28	5	69	194	207
Washington	28	27	8	64	177	196
Florida	28	30	7	63	175	189
Atlanta	29	30	4	62	169	203
Tampa Bay	25	30	7	57	177	203

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Detroit	42	17	5	89	200	141
Nashville	32	24	8	72	186	181
Columbus	29	26	9	67	156	166
St. Louis	28	24	10	66	159	173
Chicago	29	27	6	64	178	180

Northwest Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Calgary	33	22	8	74	180	178
Minnesota	34	23	5	73	170	168
Vancouver	32	22	8	72	167	157
Colorado	31	26	6	68	172	174
Edmonton	28	30	5	61	169	190

Pacific Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Dallas	39	22	5	83	196	163
Anaheim	36	23	7	79	167	163
San Jose	33	21	8	74	161	151
Phoenix	32	26	5	69	173	171
Los Angeles	26	34	4	56	186	212

Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss or shootout loss.

Monday's Games

Philadelphia 4, Buffalo 3, SO
Toronto 5, Ottawa 0

Today's Games

New Jersey at Carolina, 7 p.m.
Minnesota at Washington, 7 p.m.
Pittsburgh at N.Y. Islanders, 7 p.m.
Ottawa at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
Atlanta at Montreal, 7:30 p.m.
Dallas at St. Louis, 8:30 p.m.
Detroit at Edmonton, 9 p.m.
Colorado at Calgary, 9 p.m.

PSAC standings

Men

Western Division

	PSAC W	PSAC L	Overall W	Overall L
California	10	0	21	4
Edinboro	9	1	20	5
Clarion	6	4	15	10
Indiana	4	6	12	13
Slippery Rock	4	5	7	17
Lock Haven	2	9	2	23
Shippensburg	1	10	7	19

Eastern Division

	PSAC W	PSAC L	Overall W	Overall L
Cheyney	9	2	17	8
Kutztown	9	2	17	8
Millersville	7	3	18	7
East Stroudsburg	5	5	17	8
Mansfield	4	6	16	9
West Chester	2	8	11	14
Bloomsburg	0	10	8	17

Wednesday

Slippery Rock at California (8 p.m.)
Edinboro at Clarion
Indiana at Shippenmsburg
West Chester at Bloomsburg
Cheyney at Millersville
Mansfield at East Stroudsburg
Columbia Union at Kutztown

Women

Western Division

	PSAC W	PSAC L	Overall W	Overall L
Indiana	8	2	23	3
California	7	3	20	5
Clarion	7	3	17	7
Shippensburg	6	5	18	8
Edinboro	5	5	16	9
Lock Haven	2	9	7	18
Slippery Rock	1	9	7	18

Eastern Division

	PSAC W	PSAC L	Overall W	Overall L
Millersville	10	0	21	4
West Chester	8	2	17	8
Cheyney	7	4	11	14
East Stroudsburg	4	6	10	14
Kutztown	4	7	11	15
Bloomsburg	2	8	7	18
Mansfield	1	9	6	19

Wednesday

Slippery Rock at California (6 p.m.)
Indiana at Shippensburg
Edinboro at Clarion
West Chester at Bloomsburg
Cheyney at Millersville
Mansfield at East Stroudsburg

Sports moves

BASEBALL

American League

BALTIMORE ORIOLES—Named Matt Klentak director of baseball operations.

BOSTON RED SOX—Agreed to terms with RHP Bartolo Colon on a minor league contract. Named Bruce Hurst special instructor for player development.

TEXAS RANGERS—Named Jerry Narron consultant/scout. Agreed to terms with RHP Omar Beltre, RHP Wes Littleton, RHP Brandon McCarthy, INF Travis Metcalf, OF David Murphy, LHP A.J. Murray and RHP Alexi Ogando on one-year contracts.

National League

CINCINNATI REDS—Agreed to terms with INF-OF Jeff Keppinger, RHP Marcus McBeth and RHP Ramon Ramirez on one-year contracts.

FLORIDA MARLINS—Agreed to terms with RHP Harvey Garcia, RHP Logan Kensing, RHP Henry Owens and OF Brett Carroll on one-year contracts.

FOOTBALL

National Football League

DETROIT LIONS—Released CB Fernando Bryant.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League

COLORADO AVALANCHE—Agreed to terms with F Peter Forsberg on a contract through the end of the season.

DALLAS STARS—Activated D Philippe Boucher from injured reserve.

DETROIT RED WINGS—Signed RW Darren McCarty to a one-year contract and assigned him to Grand Rapids (AHL).

PITTSBURGH PENGUINS—Assigned F Nathan Smith to Wilkes-Barre/Scranton (AHL).

ST. LOUIS BLUES—Signed D Barret Jackman to a four-year contract extension. Recalled G Hannu Toivonen from Peoria (AHL). Assigned G Chris Beckford-Tseu to Peoria.

TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING—Traded LW Vaclav Prospal to Philadelphia for D Alexandre Picard and a 2009 conditional draft pick. Re-signed D Dan Boyle to a six-year contract extension.

Mike Comrie and the New York Islanders will host the Penguins at 7 p.m. on Fox Sports.

Sports dial

Today

Television

7 p.m. - Fox Sports - Pittsburgh at New York Islanders, hockey.

7 p.m. - ESPN - Ohio State at Indiana, college basketball.

7 p.m. - Versus - Minnesota at Washington, hockey.

7 p.m. - ESPN2 - Southern Illinois at Bradley, college basketball.

9 p.m. - ESPN - Tennessee at Vanderbilt, college basketball.

Radio

7 p.m. - WXDX (105.9 FM) - Pittsburgh at New York Islanders, hockey.

Men's basketball Top 25

The Top 25 teams in The Associated Press men's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Feb. 24, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote, and previous ranking:

	W-L	Pts	Pvs
1. Tennessee (69)	25-2	1,797	2
2. Memphis	26-1	1,682	1
3. N. Carolina (2)	26-2	1,668	3
4. UCLA(1)	24-3	1,593	6
5. Texas	23-4	1,478	7
6. Kansas	24-3	1,368	4
7. Duke	23-3	1,344	5
8. Stanford	22-4	1,264	9
9. Xavier	24-4	1,228	10
10. Wisconsin	23-4	1,175	11
11. Georgetown	22-4	1,101	12
12. Indiana	23-4	969	15
13. Louisville	22-6	828	18
14. Butler	25-3	752	8
15. Connecticut	21-6	688	13
16. Purdue	21-6	655	14
17. Notre Dame	21-5	630	21
18. Vanderbilt	23-4	627	20
19. Michigan St.	22-5	625	19
20. Drake	24-3	621	16
21. Marquette	20-6	389	25
22. Washington St.	21-6	364	17
23. Kent St.	23-5	125	—
24. Gonzaga	21-6	94	—
25. Saint Mary's	23-4	77	23

Others receiving votes: Miami 62, Davidson 40, Clemson 26, Texas A&M 21, BYU 20, Kansas St. 14, South Alabama 14, Arizona 11, Southern Cal 11, Mississippi St. 8, Pittsburgh 7, Stephen F.Austin 7, Va. Commonwealth 4, Florida 3, Kentucky 3, W. Kentucky 3, Arizona St. 1, Cornell 1, New Mexico 1, UAB 1.

Women's basketball Top 25

The Top 25 teams in The Associated Press women's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Feb. 24:

	W-L	Pts	Pvs
1. Connecticut (39)	26-1	1,232	1
2. N. Carolina (2)	25-2	1,170	2
3. Tennessee (1)	25-2	1,116	3
4. Rutgers (8)	22-4	1,084	5
5. Maryland	28-2	1,076	4
6. LSU	23-3	1,023	6
7. Stanford	25-3	996	7
8. Baylor	23-3	883	9
9. California	23-4	812	8
10. Oklahoma	20-5	784	11
11. Old Dominion	24-3	751	10
12. Duke	21-7	702	12
13. West Virginia	22-4	677	13
14. Notre Dame	21-6	559	14
15. G. Washington	22-5	489	17
16. Utah	23-3	462	18
17. Oklahoma St.	21-5	407	16
18. Ohio St.	20-6	324	20
19. UTEP	23-2	321	19
20. Texas A&M	20-7	305	21
21. Kansas St.	18-8	299	15
22. Georgia	20-7	178	24
23. Vanderbilt	20-7	150	25
24. Wyoming	22-4	94	—
25. Marist	26-2	82	—

Others receiving votes: Virginia 68, Syracuse 60, Louisville 44, Liberty 32, Pittsburgh 16, Arizona St. 12, DePaul 11, Hartford 8, Michigan St. 5, Chattanooga 4, Montana 4, Illinois St. 3, SMU 3, Iowa 2, TCU 1, Wis.-Green Bay 1.

Bowling

Charleroi Lanes
New Eagle League
Standings

Monongahela Fire Department, 49-27; Hoot Owls and Ponce's Place, 45-27; Hey Andy, 42-32; Maroadi Transfer & Storage and A.T. Koury Roofing, 42-33; Charleroi Lanes, 36-35; Yoccolano Distributig, 33-39; Eck's Restaurant & Lounge, 26-44; Bill Hermann's Landscaping, 18-53.

High scorers

Jim Gavaghan, 233-612; George McGavitt, 227-612; Ryan Lorenzi, 218-547; Bruce Morehouse, 215-520; Dave Speers Sr., 210-542; Ryan Gaydos, 205-577; David Andrako, 205-577; Bob Burket, 203-523; Terry Foster, 200-542; Sam Rice Jr., 191-519.

PIAA basketball playoffs

Boys
Western Region
Today
Class AAAA
At North Allegheny High

7:30 p.m. - Franklin Regional (19-7) vs. Brashear (17-10)

Class AAA
At Chartiers Valley

7:30 p.m. - Keystone Oaks (15-11) vs. Oliver (10-14)

At Edinboro University

7:30 p.m. - Meadville (17-10) vs. Clearfield (19-7)

Class AA
At Franklin Regional

7:30 p.m. - Riverside (24-2) vs. North Star (17-9)

Saturday
Class AAAA
At Garden Spot High

2:30 p.m. - Reading (30-0) vs. Souderton (17-12)

At Germantown High

2:30 p.m. - South Philadelphia (21-6) vs. Downingtown West (23-6)

At Council Rock High

4:30 p.m. -Norristown (28-1) vs. John Bartrum (21-6)

At Tyrone Middle School

2:30 p.m. -State College (18-8) vs. Mechanicsburg (20-10)

At Plum High

3 p.m. - Central Catholic (23-4) vs. Franklin Regional-Brashear winner

At Edinoro University

6:30 p.m. - Erie McDowell (25-2) vs. Norwin (20-7)

At North Allegheny

3 p.m. - Moon (20-7) vs. Canon-McMillan (18-8)

At Taylor Allderdice

3 p.m. - Schenley (25-2) vs. McKeesport (19-4)

Friday
Class AAA
At Shikellamy High

7 p.m - Selinsgrove (18-9) vs. Hershey (16-11)

At Hersheypark Arena

6:30 p.m. -Steelton-Highspire (23-5) vs. Johnstown (12-14)

At Pitt-Bradford

7 p.m. - Bradford (18-7) vs. Chartiers Valley (24-3)

At North Allegheny

7:30 p.m. - Hopewell (21-6) vs. Franklin (19-7)

At New Castle High

7:30 p.m. - Blackhawk (23-5) vs. Meadville-Clearfield winner

At Taylor Allderdice

7:30 p.m. - Perry Traditional Academy (14-12) vs. Greensburg-Salem (21-6)

At Johnstown High

7:30 p.m. - Central Cambria (23-3) vs. Ambridge (10-16)

At Edinboro University

7:30 p.m. - General McLane (24-3) vs. Keystone Oaks-Oliver winner

Saturday
Class AA
At Hempfield

5 p.m. - Jeannette (20-4) vs. Kane (18-9).

At Edinboro University

8 p.m. - Girard (22-5) vs. Greensburg Central Catholic (18-9)

At Chestnut Ridge High

6 p.m - Tussey Mountain (23-3) vs. North Catholic (23-4)

At Central Cambria High

7 p.m. - Bishop McCort (20-5) vs. Monessen (19-6)

At Clarion Univesity

5:30 p.m. - Cranberry (17-10) vs. South Fayette (20-6)

At New Castle High

3 p.m. -Beaver Falls (22-4) vs. Farrell (23-4)

At North Hills

5:30 p.m. - Canevin (15-13) vs. Tyrone (22-5)

At Penn State Behrend

7 p.m. - North East (26-0) vs. Riverside-North Star winner

Friday
Class A
At Fox Chapel High

7:30 p.m. - Serra Catholic (25-2) vs. Elk County Catholic (22-6)

7:30 p.m. - Bishop Guilfoyle (19-8) vs. St. Joseph (14-11)

At Chestnut Ridge High

6 p.m. - Southern Fulton (20-7) vs. Bentworth (17-8)

At Clarion University

7:30 p.m. - DuBois Central Catholic (26-3) vs. Iroquois (15-12)

At St. Mary's High

7 p.m. - Coudersport (27-0) vs. Homer-Center (21-7)

At North Hills High

7:30 p.m. - Union (16-7) vs. Shade (25-3)

At Charleroi

7:30 p.m. -Wilkinsburg (15-11) vs. Harmony (22-5)

At Farrell High

7 p.m. - Kennedy Catholic (17-9) vs. Elk County Catholic-Rocky Grove winner

Girls
Western Region
Today
Class AAAA
At North Allegheny

6 p.m. - Butler (23-3) vs. Allderdice (10-15), Class AAA

At Edinboro University

6 p.m. - Mercyhurst Prep (25-2) vs. Punxsutawney (10-16).

At Chartiers Valley

6 p.m. - Blackhawk (17-10) vs. Perry Traditional Academy (15-10)

Friday
First Round
Class AAAA
At North Allegheny

6 p.m. -Upper St. Clair (22-5) vs. Butler-Allderdice winner.

At Fairview High

6 p.m - Erie McDowell (18-9) vs. Mt. Lebanon (24-3)

At North Hills

6 p.m. -Peters Township (20-8) vs. New Castle (19-6).

At Taylor Allderdice

6 p.m. - Schenley (22-4) vs. Oakland Catholic (16-11).

Class AAA
Saturday
At Shikellamy High

5:30 p.m. - Selinsgrove (26-1 vs. Muhlenburg (21-8).

At New Oxford High

3:30 p.m. - Gettysburg (20-8) vs. Lewistown (21-5)

At Clarion University

7 p.m. - St. Marys (22-3) vs. Indiana (23-4)

At New Castle High

7 p.m. - West Mifflin (24-4) vs. Meadville (20-7), New Castle Area HS, 4:30 p.m.

At North Allegheny

4:30 p.m. - Hampton (26-2) vs. Mercyhurst Prep-Punxsutawney winner.

At Taylor Allderdice

5 p.m. - Westinghouse (22-4) vs. Chartiers Valley (20-7)

At Tyrone Middle School

5 p.m. -Bellefonte (20-6) vs. Ambridge (16-9)

At Allegheny College

7:30 p.m. - General McLane (22-5) vs. Blackhawk-Perry Traditional Academy winner

Class AA
Friday
At Fox Chapel High

6 p.m. - South Park (21-8) vs. Cranberry (17-9),

At Fairview High

7:30 p.m. - Girard (23-4) vs. Sto-Rox (16-8)

At Chestnut Ridge

8 p.m. - Conemaugh Township (23-3) vs. Ford City (20-7)

At Central Cambria

8 p.m. -Northern Cambria (25-1) vs. Beaver (16-7)

At Clarion University

6 p.m - Karns City (16-10) vs. Greensburg Central Catholic (17-8)

At New Castle High

6 p.m. - Sacred Heart (25-2) vs. Cambridge Springs (23-4)

At Charleroi

6 p.m. - Washington (24-2) vs. Bishop McCort (26-2)

At Edinboro University

6 p.m. -Villa Maria Academy (23-4) vs. Riverside-Everett winner.

Class A
Saturday
At Hempfield

3 p.m. - Mt. Alvernia (17-8) vs. Austin

At Central Cambria

5:30 p.m. -Saltsburg (20-6) vs. Serra Catholic (16-6)

At Chestnut Ridge High

4 p.m. - Berlin Brothersvalley (21-7) vs. Vincentian Academy (17-9)

At Clarion University

4 p.m. - West Forest (22-6) vs. Eisenhower (19-6)

At St. Marys High

4 p.m. - Coudersport (26-2) vs. Blairsville (12-14)

At Plum High

4:30 p.m. - Avonworth (14-10) vs. Shanksville-Stonycreek (19-8)

At North Hills High

4 p.m. - Monessen (26-1) vs. Ferndale (22-5)

At Allegheny College

6 p.m. - Farrell (23-2) vs. Clarion

Latest Line

BEST BET: Houston is easily playing its best basketball of the season going 12-0 straight-up and 9-2-1 vs. the spread in its current winning streak. The Rockets are also a perfect 7-0 straight-up and 6-1 vs. the spread their last 7 games in front of the home crowd. Take Houston -12 for another Best Bet winner.

NBA

Favorite	Points	Underdog
Sacramento	2	MIAMI
Orlando	4 1/2	NEW JERSEY
Utah	7	MINNESOTA
Cleveland	2 1/2	MILWAUKEE
Phoenix	9 1/2	MEMPHIS
HOUSTON	12	Washington
GOLDEN ST	11	Seattle
LA LAKERS	15	Portland

College Basketball

Favorite	Points	Underdog
SOUTH FLA	4	Seton Hall
VIRGINIA TECH	6	Boston College
INDIANA	8 1/2	Ohio State
BRADLEY	2	Southern Illinois
Connecticut	9 1/2	RUTGERS
WICHITA STATE	9	Evansville
Drake	1 1/2	MISSOURI ST
MISSOURI	6	Oklahoma State
Tennessee	2	VANDERBILT
MICHIGAN	8 1/2	Northwestern
NEVADA LV	8	San Diego State

NHL

Favorite	Goals	Underdog
New Jersey	Even-1/2	CAROLINA
NY ISLANDERS	Even-1/2	Pittsburgh
Minnesota	Even-1/2	WASH.
MONTREAL	1/2-1	Atlanta
Ottawa	Even-1/2	BOSTON
Dallas	Even-1/2	ST. LOUIS
Detroit	Even-1/2	EDMONTON
CALGARY	1/2-1	Colorado

HOME TEAM IN CAPS

NBA standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	43	12	.782	—
Toronto	31	24	.564	12
New Jersey	25	31	.446	18 1/2
Philadelphia	25	32	.439	19
New York	17	39	.304	26 1/2

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Orlando	36	22	.621	—
Washington	27	29	.482	8
Atlanta	22	32	.407	12
Charlotte	19	37	.339	16
Miami	9	44	.170	24 1/2

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit	42	15	.737	—
Cleveland	32	24	.571	9 1/2
Chicago	22	34	.393	19 1/2
Indiana	22	35	.386	20
Milwaukee	21	35	.375	20 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	38	17	.691	—
New Orleans	37	18	.673	1
Dallas	38	19	.667	1
Houston	36	20	.643	2 1/2
Memphis	14	42	.250	24 1/2

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	36	20	.643	—
Denver	33	23	.589	3
Portland	29	27	.518	7
Seattle	15	40	.273	20 1/2
Minnesota	11	43	.204	24

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Lakers	39	17	.696	—
Phoenix	38	18	.679	1
Golden State	33	22	.600	5 1/2
Sacramento	26	29	.473	12 1/2
L.A. Clippers	19	35	.352	19

Monday's Games

Toronto 102, Indiana 98
Washington 95, New Orleans 92
San Antonio 89, Atlanta 74
Dallas 102, Chicago 94
Detroit 98, Denver 93
Boston 104, L.A. Clippers 76

Today's Games

Orlando at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m.
Sacramento at Miami, 7:30 p.m.
Phoenix at Memphis, 8 p.m.
Utah at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Cleveland at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
Washington at Houston, 8:30 p.m.
Seattle at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.
Portland at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.

College basketball

MEN

EAST

Marquette 85, Villanova 75

SOUTH

Alabama A&M 77, Alcorn St. 67
Alabama St. 65, Southern U. 46
Bethune-Cookman 73, Md.-Eastern Shore 60
Coppin St. 68, Howard 45
ETSU 96, Campbell 87
Florida A&M 70, Delaware St. 58
MVSU 63, Prairie View 59
Morgan St. 66, Hampton 62, OT
N. Carolina A&T 77, S. Carolina St. 75
South Alabama 64, Presbyterian 49
UNC Greensboro 75, Coll. of Charleston 67
Winston-Salem 68, Norfolk St. 65

MIDWEST

Texas 74, Kansas St. 65
Valparaiso 66, Wis.-Milwaukee 57

SOUTHWEST

Texas Southern 77, Ark.-Pine Bluff 76, OT

FAR WEST

Gonzaga 73, Portland 51
Saint Mary's, Calif. 61, San Diego 54
Santa Clara 87, San Francisco 55

WOMEN

EAST

Fairleigh Dickinson 65, Cent. Connecticut St. 44
Monmouth, N.J. 80, Quinnipiac 66
Robert Morris 87, Mount St. Mary's, Md. 53
Wagner 64, St. Francis, Pa. 60

SOUTH

Alabama A&M 59, Alcorn St. 49
Alabama St. 78, Southern U. 71, OT
Appalachian St. 74, Wofford 69
Campbell 62, S.C.-Upstate 47
Chattanooga 79, Georgia Southern 60
Connecticut 74, LSU 69
Coppin St. 101, Howard 57
Delaware St. 55, Florida A&M 41
ETSU 88, Gardner-Webb 76
Furman 70, Davidson 66
Jacksonville 84, Mercer 66
Md.-Eastern Shore 64, Bethune-Cookman 41
Morgan St. 73, Hampton 54
N. Carolina A&T 86, S. Carolina St. 67
North Carolina 85, N.C. State 79
North Florida 50, Kennesaw St. 49
Prairie View 67, MVSU 53
Savannah St. 65, N.J. Tech 58
UMKC 80, Centenary 72
W. Carolina 56, Coll. of Charleston 51

MIDWEST

IUPUI 72, IPFW 62, OT
Indiana 69, Ohio St. 61, OT
Oakland, Mich. 66, W. Illinois 62, OT

SOUTHWEST

Oral Roberts 71, S. Utah 42
Texas Southern 70, Ark.-Pine Bluff 65, OT

Big East standings

	PSAC W	PSAC L	Overall W	Overall L
Georgetown	11	3	21	4
Louisville	12	3	22	6
Notre Dame	11	3	21	5
Connecticut	10	4	21	6
Marquette	11	5	21	6
West Virginia	8	6	19	8
Cincinnati	8	6	13	13
Pittsburgh	7	7	19	8
Villanova	7	8	17	10
Syracuse	7	8	17	11
Seton Hall	6	8	16	11
DePaul	5	9	10	16
St. John's	4	10	10	16
Providence	4	11	13	14
South Florida	2	12	11	16
Rutgers	2	13	10	18

Monday's Games

Marquette 85, Villanova 75

Today's Games

Seton Hall at South Florida, 7 p.m.
Connecticut at Rutgers, 7:30 p.m.

Billiards

Donora Men's Pool League
Playoffs
Round One

Hoot Owls 18, St. Mary's 7
Ukrainian Club 18, St. Dominic's 15

Today

American Legion at Hoot Owls
Firemen at Eagles
Hungarian Club at Ukrainian Club
French Club at Rusin Club

Edwards

(FROM PAGE ONE)

times that makes a tiny little difference and I'm proud to be driving this car."

Roush dragged his feet testing the bigger, boxier CoT a year ago. But Roush said that changed last May when he realized other teams were getting too far ahead.

"We went to Bristol (for the first CoT race) and we were 2,000 miles behind what they did in testing on non-sanctioned NASCAR tracks," Roush said. "That was my fault."

He said his team made "a Herculean effort" from that point on to develop the CoT.

On Monday, Edwards went into the final round of pit stops under caution on lap 221 while leading. He came out behind Johnson, Gordon and Roush Fenway teammate Jamie McMurray.

He quickly passed McMurray after the green flag waved for the start of lap 225 and set out after the leaders, passing Gordon for second on lap 233 and moving alongside Johnson's No. 48 Chevrolet on lap 236.

They stayed side-by-side for almost two laps before Edwards nosed ahead and began to pull away.

"I told my guys, 'We got 'em right where we want 'em.' This is what we prepared for," Edwards said. "I enjoy that kind of stuff."

"Jimmie is always fun to race with," he added. "He's a true racer."

Gordon's engine blew seconds before the last of 12 caution flags in the race froze the field.

"Carl Edwards was in another league.," he said. "We've got some work to do to catch those guys."

Gordon, a four-time Cup champion, and Johnson got off to a tough start last week at Daytona, finishing 39th and 27th, respectively.

"It's a good rebound from Daytona and we'll roll on," said Johnson, who won 10 races last season. "I was too loose off the corners to do anything with Carl."

Johnson said the new car performed well.

"Maybe another practice session would have helped," Johnson added, referring to all the track time lost to rain Friday and Saturday. "I think it would have helped the whole field."

About 25,000 fans, far short of the approximate 120,000 capacity, were on hand Monday, with the sun peeking out from high clouds and temperatures moving into the high 60s.

Backyard Brawl set for Nov. 28

ABC will television this year's battle of Big East rivals.

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Pitt's annual Backyard Brawl rivalry game against West Virginia will be played on Friday, Nov. 28, at Heinz Field and will be televised by ABC.

Unlike last season, when Pitt upset West Virginia 13-9 on Dec. 1 to put the Mountaineers out of the national title game, the game will not end each team's regular season. On Dec. 6, Pitt finishes at Connecticut, while West Virginia plays South Florida at home.

Pitt and West Virginia also played on the Friday following Thanksgiving in 1997, 1998 and 2000, with the 1998 and 2000 games at Three Rivers Stadium. Pitt staged a 41-38, three-overtime upset at West Virginia in 1997.

The two rivals played nationally televised Thanksgiving night games in 2004 and 2005 and on the Thursday before Thanksgiving in 2006.

Because the Panthers start the season Aug. 30 against Bowling Green and don't close it until Dec. 6, they will have three open dates — including one that lasts more than two weeks.

Pitt also has a second Thursday game, at South Florida on Oct. 2. There is an open date the following weekend, which gives the Panthers a 16-day break until their Oct. 18 game at Navy.

They open with three consecutive home games before playing six of their final nine on the road during their fourth season under coach Dave Wannstedt.

Other home opponents are Buffalo (Sept. 6), Iowa (Sept. 20), Rutgers (Oct. 25) and Louisville (Nov. 8). The other road games are at Syracuse (Sept. 27), Notre Dame (Nov. 1) and Cincinnati (Nov. 22).

Pitt has not announced home game starting times, but athletic director Steve Pederson said no game will start earlier than 3:30 p.m.

The Aug. 30 opener against Bowling Green is expected to be a night game.

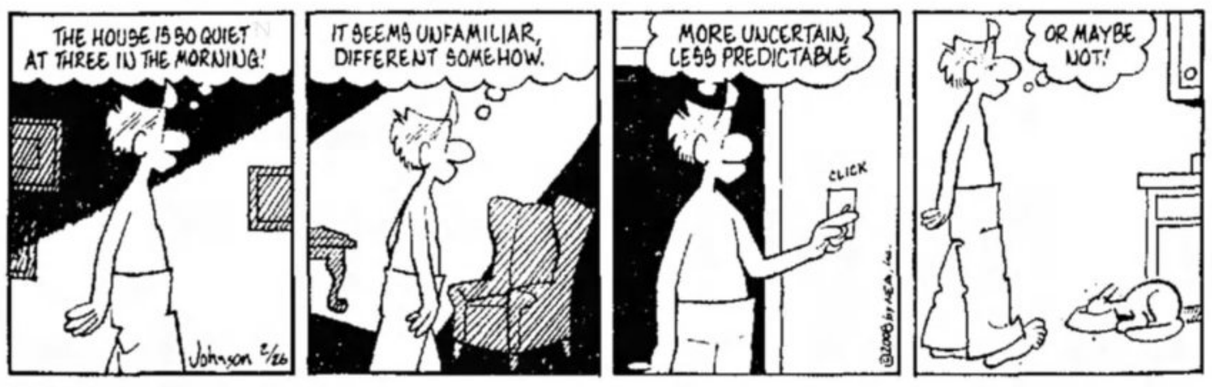
COMICS

CATHY® by Cathy Guisewite

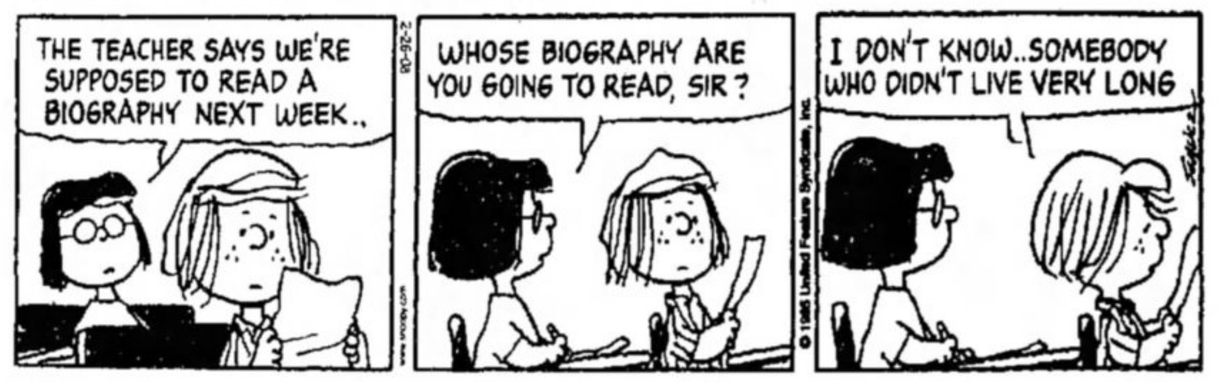
"OVEREATING ISN'T A RESULT OF WEAKNESS OR HUNGER, BUT AN AUTOMATIC BEHAVIOR TRIGGERED BY ENVIRONMENTAL CUES!"
"THINK OF THE SMELL OF MOVIE THEATER POPCORN... THE SOUND OF BACON FRYING ON TV... THE 30-FOOT FRENCH FRY BILLBOARD... THE SIGHT OF RICH, GOOEY HOT FUDGE, MELTING OVER THE EDGE OF...."
WHERE??!
ANOTHER PROMISING LINE OF HEALTH RESEARCH NIBBLED IN THE BUD.

GARFIELD® by Jim Davis

ARLO and JANIS® by Jimmy Johnson


THE HOUSE IS SO QUIET AT THREE IN THE MORNING!
IT SEEMS UNFAMILIAR, DIFFERENT SOMEHOW.
MORE UNCERTAIN, LESS PREDICTABLE
CLICK
OR MAYBE NOT!
Johnson 2/26

Classic PEANUTS® by Charles M. Schulz


THE TEACHER SAYS WE'RE SUPPOSED TO READ A BIOGRAPHY NEXT WEEK..
WHOSE BIOGRAPHY ARE YOU GOING TO READ, SIR?
I DON'T KNOW..SOMEBODY WHO DIDN'T LIVE VERY LONG

MONTY® by Jim Meddick

E-Mail: JimMeddick@aol.com

OK, THE REASON YOU CAN'T LAUGH IS BECAUSE YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT HOW YOU SOUND...YOU'VE BECOME SELF-CONSCIOUS...
NOW I WANT YOU TO LOOK AT THIS "MARMADUKE" AND I WANT YOU TO RELAX, BE NATURAL AND LET IT FLOW...
HEE HEE HEH HEH HOOO HEE HEE HEH HEH HOOO HEE HEE...
OK, MAYBE THINK ABOUT HOW YOU SOUND A LITTLE BIT. WE'RE IN A PUBLIC PLACE..
DAILY BUGLE

HI & LOIS® by Mort Walker and Dick Browne

BEETLE BAILEY® by Mort Walker

BORN LOSER® by Art Sansom

ARE YOU VERY UPSET WITH ME THAT I ALLOWED OUR COMPETITORS TO OUT-NEGOTIATE ME?
WELL, AS I ALWAYS SAY, FOOL YOU ONCE, SHAME ON THEM, FOOL YOU TWICE, SHAME ON YOU.
FOOL YOU THREE TIMES, SHAME ON YOU! FOOL YOU FOUR TIMES, SHAME ON YOU! FOOL YOU FIVE TIMES...

GRIZZWELLS® by Bill Schorr

GUNTHER, WOULD YOU RATHER HAVE CHICKEN FINGERS OR PIGS' FEET?
HAR DE HAR HAR. BIRD-BRAIN
HOW MUCH FOOD DO YOU THINK I COULD PICK UP WITH PUNY LITTLE CHICKEN FINGERS?
GOOD POINT.

COW AND BOY® by Mark Leiknes

EVER WONDER HOW YOUR BEHAVIOR SHAPES THE WORLD AROUND YOU?
HOW YOUNG PEOPLE CAN BE INFLUENCED BY EVERYTHING YOU DO? KIND OF MAKES YOU WANT TO LEAD A BETTER LIFE.
I'M NOT GIVING UP ONLINE GAMBLING.
YOU PAWNED MY BIKE.
ONLY CUZ MY BOOKIE SENT ME A VERY THREATENING E-MAIL IN ALL CAPS.

FRANK and ERNEST® by Bob Thaves

HERMAN® by Jim Unger

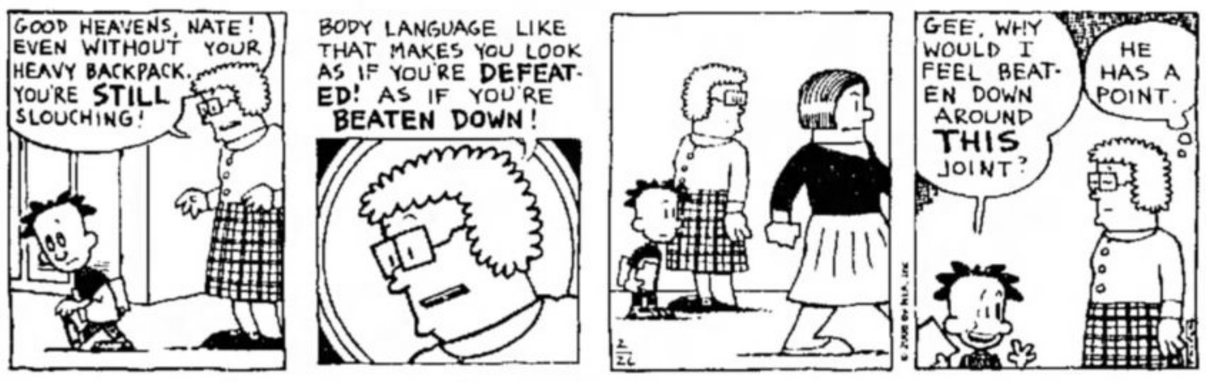
"He's 50,000 years old. That's three and a half million to you and me."

KIT'N' CARLYLE® by Larry Wright

kitncarlyle@comcast.net
OOOOOOOOO.... I HATE GIVING MYSELF A BATH AFTER I ACCIDENTALLY STEPPED IN A BOWL OF BRUSSELS SPROUTS.
CARLYLE
2-26
© 2008 by NEA, Inc.
www.comics.com

SOUP TO NUTZ™ by Rick Stromoski

BIG NATE® by Lincolin Peirce


GOOD HEAVENS, NATE! EVEN WITHOUT YOUR HEAVY BACKPACK, YOU'RE STILL SLOUCHING!
BODY LANGUAGE LIKE THAT MAKES YOU LOOK AS IF YOU'RE DEFEATED! AS IF YOU'RE BEATEN DOWN!
GEE, WHY WOULD I FEEL BEATEN DOWN AROUND THIS JOINT?
HE HAS A POINT.

ALLEY OOP® by Dave Graue

PERHAPS A NAP WOULD EASE YOUR MIND; RELAX THE BRAIN AND THUS UNWIND!
MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT! I GUESS I AM KINDA TIRED!
2-26
MR. OOP? I DIDN'T EXPECT T'SEE YOU HERE!

MARK TRAIL® by Jack Elrod

The Valley Independent Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Ice-cream serving
4 Cotton unit
8 Harley, to some
11 Kind of poem
12 Jug
13 Mouse cousin
14 Climbing vine
16 Particular
17 Witness
18 Deli order
20 "Wall Street" director
21 Finalize
24 Ptarmigan
28 Vt. neighbor
30 Mournful cry
33 Wildebeest
34 Reunion attendee
35 Basilica area
36 Summer in Cannes
37 Heroic tale
38 Poor grade
39 Hollow rocks
41 Stand up to
43 Nightclub
47 Bratty kid
49 Small accident
50 Layered haircut
53 Not inert, chemically
55 Gasps of delight
56 Perched
57 French wine
58 Thumbs-up vote
59 Wire thicknesses
60 Pacino and Unser

DOWN

1 Elevator buttons
2 — box
3 Linguine topper
4 Bwana's helper
5 Twisted
6 Oahu welcome
7 Memorable times
8 Sweltering
9 Pamplona yell
10 Topaz, for example
13 Feeling
15 Get snarled
19 Employ for some purpose
22 Swimming pool hue
23 Respiratory organ
25 Kind of molding
26 A law — itself
27 Tookto court
29 SFO info
30 Big bankroll
31 Parroted
32 Shrink's reply (2 wds.)
34 Lend a hand
39 Prom locale
40 Royal decrees
42 Sticky fruit
44 Hindu god
45 Quibble
46 Inaugurates
48 Wheels for nanny
49 Snail —
50 Protein source
51 Ground breaker
52 Sighs of relief
54 Yale alumnus

Answer to Previous Puzzle

L	E	E	K		H	U	T		U	R	D	U
I	R	A	N		A	K	A		N	O	U	N
D	A	R	E		W	E	N	T	W	I	L	D
	S	L	A	C	K	S		O	I	L	Y	
			D	I	S		D	O	N			
Y	A	W	E	D		B	O	L	D	E	R	
I	C	E	D		B	A	G	S		K	I	D
N	E	E		S	L	U	E		R	E	B	A
	S	K	A	T	E	D		M	O	S	S	Y
			B	O	W		L	A	S			
	P	E	A	K		L	O	V	E	R	S	
B	A	T	T	E	R	E	D		B	O	C	A
A	N	N	E		O	N	E		U	P	O	N
S	E	A	S		W	A	S		D	E	W	Y

GET MORE in the new "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" series from Quill Driver. Call 800-605-7176.

2-26

© 2008 by NEA, Inc.

NEWS

Marion kids Make It Take It

Third-graders at Marion Elementary School took part in the Make It Take It math event.

Cal U elementary education students led the event, which received financial support from the Consortium for Public Education and the Greater Rostraver Chamber of Commerce. Several parents participated.

The Marion students kept busy with multiplication ladders, calculator games, estimation station, multiplication games, Tangrams, and lines of symmetry.

The goal was to reinforce math skills in advance of standardized state testing. Each student received a calculator.

Marion Elementary students took part in Make It Take It. Clockwise, from top, are Illyana Lees, Carmen Sawa, Caressa Wood, Tina Lash, Maddy Bitonti, Emily Melisko and Sierra Lynn.

MONESSEN PUBLIC LIBRARY AND DISTRICT CENTER

The Monessen Public Library has received the following:

Memorial books
Mildred "Millie" Vosvick Artalona

"Comeuppance," by Artalona, presented by Sonny, Jeannie and Louis Artalona.

Mary Bongiorno

"Guideposts: Away in a Manger," presented by Don and Shirley Jones.

Pete Cardelli

"The Body has a Mind of its Own," presented by Thomas McKee American Legion Post 28.

William Carlson

"On the Canal," presented by Thomas McKee American Legion Post 28.

Florence Carlucci

"Christmas with Paula Deen," presented by Marie Altomari.

Rosina "Rose" Cianflone

"Global Warming," presented by state Rep. Ted Harhai.

Kathryn Cmar

"Pillsbury Bake-off Winners," presented by Sue and Tim Bethany and Matt Shepelak.

George Coch

"The Basketball Book," presented by state Rep. Ted Harhai.

Kathy Tominello Collins

"Taste of Home Annual Recipes 2008," presented by state Rep. Ted Harhai.

"Cooking Light Annual Recipes 2008," presented by Pittsburgh Area Jitterbug Club.

John A. Comet

"Fallscaping," by Ondra, presented by Joan Torok and Kristy Chavez.

Eugene "Coogie" Davis

"Inside the Helmet" by Strahan, presented by state Rep. Ted Harhai.

Deceased members of Monessen High School Class of 1947

"Journeys of a Lifetime," by National Geographic, presented by Monessen Class of 1947.

Rev. Henry Dinicco

"Up, Down and Around," presented by Italian American Heritage Society of Monessen.

Silvio Dodaro

"Pennsylvania Turnpike," presented by Cecelia Brown.

"Pittsburgh's Rivers," presented by Elizabeth Pennline.

John M. Dyky

"Duquesne," by Rose, presented by David J. Dyky.

Julia Furio

"When You Need a Lift," presented by the 500 Card Club.

Margaret Galilei

"Martha Stewart Living Cookbook," presented by Dr. Cynthia L. Chelen and Monessen School Board.

Donald C. Hennessey

"U.S. Air Force Special OPS," presented by Thomas McKee American Legion Post 28.

Albert M. Hudspith

"National Geographic Knowledgebook," presented by Dr. Cynthia L. Chelen and the Monessen School Board.

George J. Kerestes

"Things I Overheard While Talking to Myself," presented by Bruce and Linda Bennett.

"Trouble Shooting and Repairing Major Appliances" presented by Dr. Cynthia Chelen and Monessen School Board.

DONORA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Books have been placed in the Donora Public Library with funds given in honor of the following:

Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Bartolotta

"Knuffle Bunny Too," by Mo Willems and "The Three Snow Bears," by Jan Brett, presented by Mr. and Mrs. Paul DelSandro.

Dr. Devra Davis

"The Secret History of the War on Cancer," by Devra Davis, presented by Dr. and Mrs. Charles E. Stacey.

Tillie Szymanske

"The Red Hat Society Cookbook," presented by Beth Vaccaro.

Memorial books
Robert Scott Ackerman

"The Complete Jewish Bible," presented Ed and Janet Lario.

"How To Boil Water: Life Before Takeout" and "Engineering an Empire," DVD series, presented by Hugh and Ann Windell.

"T is for Trespass," by Sue Grafton, presented by Bill and Yvonne Turkovich.

"Tree of Smoke," by Denis Johnson, presented by Stephanie Bartus.

"Blue Moo," by Sandra Boynton, presented by Regina and Tony Menendez.

"Protect and Defend," by Vince Glynn, presented by Dwain and Nancy Johnson, Frank, Rachel, Bob, Wanda and Chick.

John J. Bandalo

"Dianastyle," by Colin McDowell, presented by the Donora Fire Co.

Michael A. Biondi

"Korea Strait," by David Poyer, presented by Bonnie G. Matyas.

Donald Binley

"Creation in Death," by J.D. Robb, presented by Marjorie Howis.

Bobby Lee

"A Bloodhound to Die For," "Ten Little Bloodhounds," "Blind Bloodhound Justice," "A Brace of Bloodhounds," "The House on Bloodhound Lane" and "Death In Bloodhound Red," by Virginia Lanier, presented by Dr. Marybeth Cline.

"Bloodhounds," by Connie Colwell Miller, presented by Judy Thomas and Donnis Headley.

Janet Brandemarte

"Getting Starred Knitting Socks," by Ann Budd, presented by Sally, Wally and Natalie Pustelak.

"Some Kind of Wonderful," by Debbie Macomber, presented by Mike and Kellie Enright.

Carolyn Andabaker Brletich

"The Secret Memoirs of Jacqueline Kennedy," by Ruth Francisco, presented by Betty Duda.

"The Diana Chronicles," by Tina Brown.

"Diana: The People's Princess," by Nicholas Owen and "The People's Princess," presented by Marie Sanko, Bernice and Joe Sala, and Peggy Simchak.

Joseph Carbone

"Italy: History and Landscape," by Eugene Beer, presented by Wally, Sally and Natalie Pustelak.

Daniel S. Connair

"Last Team Standing: How the Eagles – The Steagles – Saved Pro Football During World War II," by Matthew Algeo, presented by Rich and Darlene Zoretich.

Michael Culyba

"Doo Wop: the Music, the Times, the Era," by "Cousin Brucie" Morrow, presented by Mr. and Mrs. Richard Gaydos.

Helen W. Danek

"Amazing Grace," by Danielle Steel, presented by Pauline S. Rabe.

"Llama Llama Mad at Mama," by Anna Dewdney, presented by Jeff and Carin Alvarez.

Ann Petrus DeBerardinis

"Dead Heat" by Dick Francis, presented by Robert and La Vonne Gaydos.

Dominic: D'Isidoro

"The Farm Tractor: 100 Years of North American Tractors" by Ralph S. Sanders, presented by the Donora High School Class of 1949.

Black history event planned

Pamela Leigh Lewis will honor legendary jazz and swing performers.

Lewis

In conjunction with its ninth annual Black History Celebration, Riverside Place in Charleroi will present "Honoring the Past – Embracing the Future," 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Feb. 29.

Singer Pamela Leigh Lewis will present "Echo's of An Era," a tribute to such jazz and swing legends as Lena Horn, Ella Fitzgerald and Billy Holiday.

Gene Ludwig and Bill George will accompany her.

"It has been my distinct pleasure and honor to bring back the foremothers of yesteryears; and keep alive the memories and spirit of these Great Ladies of Jazz," she said.

Lewis has performed in Nevada, New York, California and Arizona.

The event will include narrations about black American heroes; a luncheon menu; and a steel guitar performance by Karl Jackson.

The Celebrate Culture Committee organized the event. For reservations, call (724) 483-5800. The fee for lunch is $2.

www.valleyindependent.com
www.valleyindependent.com
www.valleyindependent.com

with hundreds of jobs, we like your odds.

Thanks to Trib Total Media's recent partnership with Yahoo! HotJobs, everyone wins.
More local jobs. More up-to-date listings. More of what you need to find the right one.

VISIT PAJOBMATCH.COM TODAY.

PA JOBMATCH .com TRIB TOTAL MEDIA | in partnership with YAHOO! hotjobs

©2007 Yahoo! Inc. All rights reserved.

FEATURES

Frugal Living

On-the-go cleaning kit keeps you organized

Sara **NOEL**

Our favorite cleaning products, supplies and tools help us save time and effort.

If you don't have a cleaning service or utility room and have been storing these items lined up in cabinets, try putting together a cleaning-kit caddy, which makes it easy to have everything handy to carry from room to room. It's organized and space-saving, too. No one wants to spend more time cleaning.

They make great practical gifts for family and friends. I asked readers what cleaning items they couldn't live without. While dusters, vinegar, scrub brushes, squirt bottles and bleach were high on the list, I've added more materials to help you assemble a well-stocked cleaning kit. Ideally, you want products that shine, scrub, polish and sanitize. I'm pleased to share a few green options, too. Did I mention they're frugal?

COTTON SWABS: Great for cleaning corners and crevices. Makes the job of cleaning keyboards, cameras, window tracks and shoes a breeze.

CLOTH DIAPERS: Reusable, absorbent, lint-free and perfect for polishing. Use for wiping up spills, washing your car, cleaning windows and polishing furniture.

MICRO-FIBER CLOTHS: While they're made from nylon and polyester, they're still a good eco-frugal choice because you'll use less water, chemical products and paper towels.

RUBBER OR NEOPRENE GLOVES: Protect your hands from bacteria, chemicals and extended time in water with gloves. They work well to grip jars for easy opening, too.

TOOTHBRUSH: Perfect scrubbing tool for hard-to-reach places. Clean around faucets, in sliding tracks, flatware, scrubbing stains, used as a nailbrush, for toilet hinges, jewelry, shoes and combs.

DISINFECTANT WIPES: Great for quick cleanups such as counters and doorknobs. You can make your own. Use thick paper towels cut in half with the cardboard tube removed, washcloths or cotton cloths. Place them in a container with a lid, such as a plastic ice-cream tub, plastic coffee container or baby-wipes box. For the cleaner, use a two-to-one mixture of vinegar and water or your favorite antibacterial cleaner. Dilute according to your cleaner's label instructions. You can add your favorite essential oils, such as lemon or tea tree.

BAKING SODA: It deodorizes, scours and works well to clean proteins and grease. Often used on faucets to remove spots. Add it to laundry as a booster, or make it into a paste with water and use it as a stain remover. Use it combined with water for dishes that have baked-on food or coffee/tea stains.

LOOFAH: If you frequently use scrub sponges or scouring pads, try replacing them with loofahs. Loofahs can be grown by seed in your own backyard, so are versatile, natural and biodegradable. They're natural scrubbers for the kitchen and bath.

RUBBER BRUSH AND BROOM: Readers with pets and children mentioned they liked using the brushes and brooms to get fur off furniture and carpet. The brooms are multipurpose and can be used as a squeegee, broom, mop and scrubber. They can be used indoors and outdoors.

CELEBRITY CIPHER

by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

Today's clue. O equals M

"VG RGGX J PAMMPG PGCC MJPE JSNWM MLG VNHE GMLAK JRX J PAMMPG ONHG GMLAKC AR HGPJMANR MN VNHE." - SJHSJHJ GLHGRHGAKL

PREVIOUS SOLUTION — "I don't listen to the refs. I don't listen to anyone who makes less money than I do." - Basketball's Charles Barkley

(c) 2008 by NEA, Inc. 2-26

SATISFY
HER LIKE
NEVER BEFORE
TRY IT NOW — FREE!
Feel Like A Sexual Superstar
FOR UP TO 48 HOURS
Starting In Just 25 Minutes Or Less!
Take Your Sex Life To A Whole New Dimension!
Never again worry about leaving her wanting more! ASPIRE36's revolutionary "gold standard" liquid capsule technology works super fast to boost and rejuvenate your sexual potency "off the charts" ... with maximum firmness, sexual stamina and recovery power. Plus, it keeps you "ready, set, go" for a full 24 HOURS (and even up to 48 hours)! ASPIRE36™ is the only proprietary liquid capsule formula with the BEST natural male potency ingredients. And you can order it direct, without a doctor's visit or prescription. TRY IT FREE NOW!
GET A FREE SUPPLY!
(a $39.99 value, YOURS FREE!)
CALL NOW TOLL-FREE
1-800-220-6851
NEXT GENERATION SEXUAL ENHANCER!
• STARTS WORKING In 25 Minutes Or Less!
• KEEPS WORKING 24-48 Hours Guaranteed!
• PROVIDES FIRMEST, Longest Lasting Power!
• REDUCES RECOVERY Time To Mere Minutes!
• INCREASES STAMINA
ASPIRE36™
Maximum Liquid Capsule
MALE POTENCY FORMULA!
ASPIRE36
Next Generation Sexual Enhancer
Liquid Capsule Technology
Individual results may vary. These statements have not been evaluated by the Food and Drug Administration. This product is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure or prevent any disease.

CALENDAR WATCH

Wednesday

■ Innovations in CTA, Monongahela Valley Hospital Anthony M. Lombardi Education Conference Center, 5:30 p.m.

■ Kindergarten registration for students with last names beginning with A-L, Charleroi Elementary Center, 1 to 3:30 p.m.

VALLEY GRAPEVINE

Transportation Task Force advisory board to meet

The Transportation Task Force Mid Mon Valley Region monthly advisory board meeting will be held 11 a.m. Wednesday at Orchard Fellowship Hall, 801 Donner Ave., Monessen.

K of C to meet in Monessen

Bishop Phelan Assembly 911 Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus of Mon Valley will hold its monthly meeting 7:30 p.m. Thursday at the Knights of Columbus home, Grand Boulevard, Monessen. Those who have not paid 2008 dues are asked to send them as soon as possible to John Petritis, 54 Reed Ave., Monessen, Pa. 15062.

Donora Class of '53 to meet Thursday

Donora High School Class of 1953 will hold a reunion planning meeting 7 p.m. Thursday at the Donora Chamber office.

Donora Class of '52 plans Friday meeting

Donora High School Class of 1952 will meet at Duke's Restaurant in Donora 1:15 p.m. Friday. For reservations, call Jeri or Rita.

Games planned at Sutersville church

The Holy Name Society of St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Fifth Avenue, Sutersville, will hold a bingo in the church social hall 1 p.m. Sunday. Tickets will be available at the door.

St. Anthony women to attend Mass

St. Anthony's Altar Rosary/Christian Mothers are to attend Mass as a group at the 10:30 a.m. Sunday Mass. The March meeting will be held March 3 in Father Abbate Hall following rosaries and Mass in the chapel. Ed Repka will speak on pysanky.

Charleroi Goldenagers plan March 7 meeting

The Charleroi Goldenagers will meet noon March 7 at the Charleroi Elks. Members are reminded that the motorcoach for the March 2 trip to see Drowsy Chaperone will leave at 11:15 a.m. Upcoming trips include: West Side Story May 18, Atlantic City June 8-11, Soaring Eagle, Mich. Sept. 7-10, New York Nov. 17-20. For information on trips, call Sam at (724) 489-9486.

Spaghetti dinner set in Belle Vernon

The Belle Vernon Volunteer Fire Department will host a spaghetti dinner 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. For takeouts, call (724) 929-5511.

Literacy Council to open local center

The Washington County Literacy Council announces the opening of the Mon Valley Center. The council provides free and confidential one-on-one literacy tutoring for any adult seeking to improve his reading, writing, spelling, mathematics or comprehensive skills. The center is located in the John K. Tener Library, 638 Fallowfield Ave., Charleroi. For information, call the office at (724) 489-7137.

Charleroi Class of '68 planning reunion

Charleroi Area High School Class of 1968 is planning a 40-year reunion for July 26 and the committee has been unable to obtain addresses for the following classmates:

Terry Brown, John Davis, Ed Gobert, Rockne Giannini, David Kostelansky, Charles Lisovich, Maureen McMahan Cherry, Cathy Reese, Cindy Rosena, William Rousseaux, Bernard Simpson, Dianne Sphar George, Marlene Susick Boyd, Frank Teegarden, David Weik, Darlene Williams, Carl R. Swan.

Anyone with information can call (724) 483-8447 and leave a message if no one is available. The reunion will be held at the Meadowlands Holiday Inn with a Friday evening social and Saturday dinner event.

LIBRARY MEMORIALS

Monongahela Area Library

The Monongahela Area Library has received the following:

MEMORIALS

Albert Henry Baxter

"The Complete Guide to Freshwater Fishing" by Ken Fund, presented by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Benedetti, Mrs. Jenny Kornosky, Mr. and Mrs. Emil Varga, Millie Scheponik and Mr. and Mrs. Terry Livingston.

Pat Curry

"Made to be Broken, 50 Greatest Records" by Allen St. John, "Tale of King Arthur" by Daniel and Ronne Randall, "Beverly Hills Dead" by Stuart Woods, "The Best Game Ever" Pirates vs. the Yankees, by Jim Reisler, presented by Rosemary Bechtler.

Harry Giffen

"90 Minutes in Heaven" by Don Piper, presented by Jay, Kathleen, Daniel and Matthew Peart.

Mary Margaret Greaves

"The New Encyclopedia of the Cat" by Dr. Broca Fagley, presented by James and Annette MacPherson.

Mary Halechko

"New Illustrated Guide to Gardening/Reader's Digest" presented by Betty and Becky Piccolo.

Augustus "Gus" Johnston

"Dan Rooney: My 75 Years with the Pittsburgh Steelers and the NFL" by Andrew E. Masich, presented by Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Stoy and families.

Claire Huffngel

"The Paolantonia Report" by Sal Paolantonia, presented by Carol, John and Dustin Chioda.

Margaret Peters Power

"Little Heathers," presented by Mona Rae Williams.

Charles Provan

"The President, the Pope and the Prime Minister: Three Who Changed the World" by John O'Sullivan, presented by Mona Rae Williams.

Logan Vaughan

"Before your dog can eat your Homework" by John O'Hurley and "Driving Home" by Jerome Bettis, presented by Ernie, Karen, Ehren, and Keeley O'Brien.

ENGAGEMENTS

Golashewski-Pascal

Larry and Sharla Golashewski, of Carroll Township, have announced the engagement of their daughter, Lauren, to Marc Pascal, son of Michael and Rose Pascal, of Pittsburgh (Regent Square).

Golashewski is a 1999 graduate of Ringgold High School and a 2003 graduate of The University of Pittsburgh. She is employed by Del Monte Foods in Pittsburgh.

Pascal, a 1996 graduate of Woodland Hills High School and a 2000 graduate of Duquesne University, is employed by the Bank of New York Melion in Pittsburgh.

Marc Pascal & Lauren Golashewski

A December 2008 wedding is being planned by the couple.

Moore-Maise

Roger and Christine Moore, of New Stanton, have announced the engagement of their daughter, Amanda Faye Moore, to Thomas Edward Maise, son of Cheryl Maise and Thomas Maise, both of Belle Vernon.

Moore is a 1988 graduate of Hempfield Area High School and a 2003 graduate of the University of Pittsburgh with a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering. She is currently employed by AREVA T&D as a marketing engineer.

Maise is a 2000 graduate of Belle Vernon Area High School and is currently employed by New Belle Construction.

The couple is planning a late summer 2009 wedding in Mexico.

www.valleyindependent.com

The Mini Page

™ Especially for kids and their families ™

© 2008 Universal Press Syndicate

Created by BETTY DEBNAM

from The Mini Page © 2008 Universal Press Syndicate

Newspapers Help Us ...

Connect to Our World

What connects you to your community? Getting involved in volunteer projects, special events and sports teams, for example, can make us feel attached to our neighborhoods or cities.

One of the most important parts of a community is its newspaper. This year, the theme of Newspaper in Education Week, March 3-7, is **Connect to Your World With Newspapers**. The Mini Page looks at the many ways we are connected to the newspaper, and the many ways the newspaper connects us to our world.

How are you connected?

The first printed newspapers were produced by the Chinese about 1,300 years ago. In the United States, about 20 newspapers were being printed by the mid-1700s.

At first, American newspapers were available only by **subscription***. Later they were also sold by newsboys, who stood on street corners selling papers.

Today, your family might have the newspaper delivered to your home. Or you might buy one from a newspaper box on the street. You also may read the newspaper in your classroom.

***A subscription is an agreement to pay for a service over a period of time.**

What is a community?

What does "community" mean to you? It might be a group of people who live in the same area, or the area itself.

What makes your community unique? Is it:

- **your region of the country (such as the Midwest or South)?**
- **an important business (such as car manufacturing or agriculture)?**
- **a university nearby?**
- **a group of citizens from other countries?**

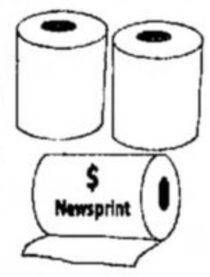
In your newspaper, find articles or advertise ents that highlight so ething special about your ommu nity. For instance, you ight see an article about a local sports tea . Fill in the blanks on the web above with the headlines or page nu bers of the articles.

New delivery methods

You may have access to your newspaper through the Internet.

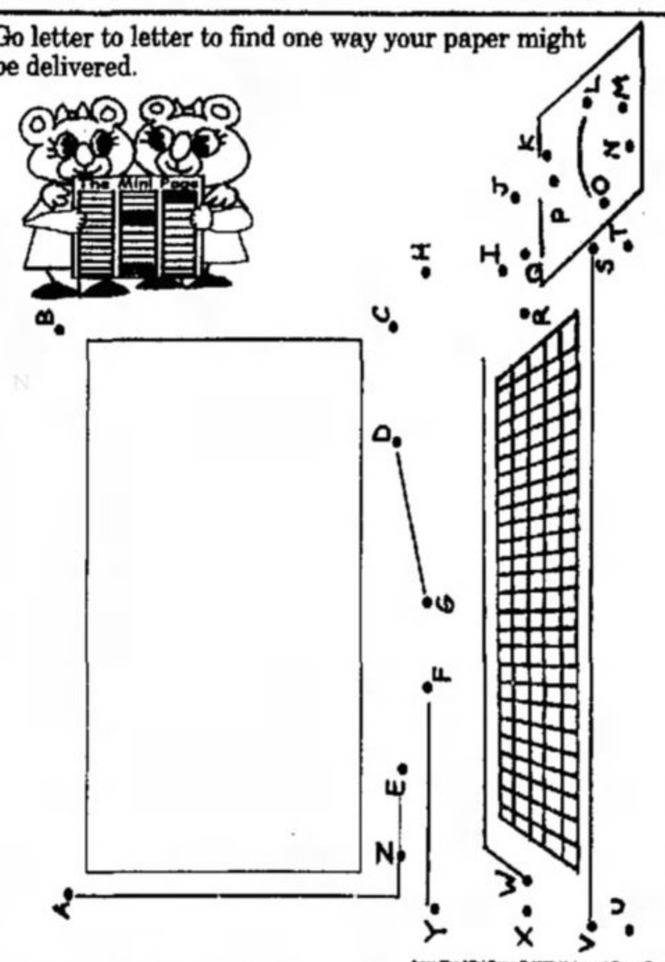
Many papers, especially those in larger cities, have Web sites or online editions. Papers have started Web sites for several reasons:

- to keep the cost of paper down.
- to attract younger readers who are used to using the Internet.



- to present up-to-the-minute news without waiting for the next print edition.
- to reach readers in other cities.
- to add information that won't fit into the print version.

Go letter to letter to find one way your paper might be delivered.



from The Mini Page © 2008 Universal Press Syndicate

Rookie Cookie's Recipe
Lemon Buttered Green Beans

This recipe dresses up green beans and makes a great side dish.

You'll need:

- 1 (16-ounce) package frozen green beans
- 2 tablespoons butter, melted
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice (1 small lemon)
- 1/4 teaspoon seasoned pepper
- 1 tablespoon light Italian dressing
- pinch of salt

What to do:

1. Cook green beans according to directions; drain well.
2. Combine melted butter, lemon juice, pepper, Italian dressing and salt in a small bowl.
3. Pour over green beans and serve hot. Makes 6 to 8 servings.

**You will need an adult's help with this recipe.*

from The Mini Page © 2008 Universal Press Syndicate

Meet Sarah Bolger

Sarah Bolger plays Mallory Grace in the movie "The Spiderwick Chronicles."

Sarah, 17, was born in Dublin, Ireland. Her younger sister Emma is also an actor. Their father works as a butcher.

When Sarah was 5 years old, she began acting in The Young People's Theater Co. By the time she was 7, she was already acting in movies.

She has since acted in several movies, including "Stormbreaker" and "Tara Road." She has also appeared on several TV shows.

from The Mini Page © 2008 Universal Press Syndicate

Gus Goodsport's Report

Supersport: Jarrod Shoemaker

Height: 5-10 **Birthdate: 7-17-82**
Weight: 145 **Current Residence: Sudbury, Mass.**

Give him a swimsuit, a bike and a pair of running shoes, and Jarrod Shoemaker can go a long way — like to the 2008 Olympics in Beijing.

The former Dartmouth University cross-country and track standout qualified for the U.S. Olympic team as a triathlete in September. He'll be swimming 0.93 miles, biking 24.8 miles and running 6.2 miles, a grueling test of speed, strength, stamina, will and skill.

Shoemaker started competing in triathlons in 2004 and made a rapid rise in the sport, winning the 2005 Under-23 World Championship, and then earned a spot on the USA National Elite team in '06.

He's part of a swimming, biking and running family. His wife, Alicia Kaye, is a Canadian elite triathlete, and his sister, Jenna, also is a pro triathlete. Shoemaker didn't just start making waves. He was a beach lifeguard for four years in New Jersey.

With a degree from Dartmouth, Jarrod should have plenty of job opportunities. But for now, he is trying to swim, bike and run faster — Olympic-medal fast.

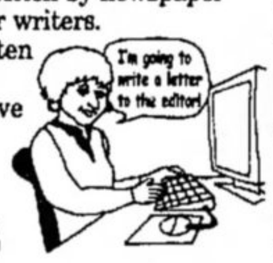
The Opinion Page

Most parts of the newspaper are written **objectively**, or on the basis of fact. Reporters and editors try not to include their personal feelings in news stories.

But many newspapers have an **opinion*** or editorial page or section. This page offers a place for editors, readers and other writers to share what they think about certain subjects or issues.

Find the opinion page in your newspaper. You may see:

- **editorials**, written by editors of the newspaper.
- **columns**, written by newspaper reporters or other writers.
- **letters**, written by community members who have an opinion to share.



***An opinion is a viewpoint a person has about a certain issue.**

- **cartoons**, written and drawn by editorial cartoonists. These cartoons present an opinion with humor and art.

This editorial cartoon is about the high price of gasoline. It was written and drawn by Tony Auth, a cartoonist with The Philadelphia Inquirer.

Choose one editorial or letter to the editor. What issue does the writer talk about? _____

_____

Which side is he or she on? _____

_____

Do you agree or disagree with the writer? Why? _____

_____

Auth © 2008 The Philadelphia Inquirer. Reprinted by permission of Universal Press Syndicate. All rights reserved.

from The Mini Page © 2008 Universal Press Syndicate

The Ads

A newspaper earns money by selling papers and subscriptions. It also earns money by selling **advertisements**.

Local or national companies try to sell goods or services by putting ads in the newspaper. Many of the ads are placed by companies you may be familiar with.

Open your newspaper. Look for ads for fa ilia co panies.

Make a list of the products or services that you or your fa ily already use. Make another list of the products you would like to buy.

Already Use	Want to Buy
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Do the ads help you ake a decision about what products to buy? _____

Connect to the Newspaper

Newspaper in Education Week encourages kids to read the newspaper for learning and to develop a lifelong reading habit. Are you connected to the newspaper?

The best way to get acquainted with the paper is to open it up and dive in! Whether you're reading an actual print version, or you're looking at a newspaper on the Internet, you can find dozens of things that might interest you.

Find your way around

Most newspapers have an index on the front page that can help you find a particular section you're looking for, such as sports or entertainment.

If you're reading online, look for an index of newspaper sections. Or locate a "search" box and type in the subjects you're looking for.

Sites to see:

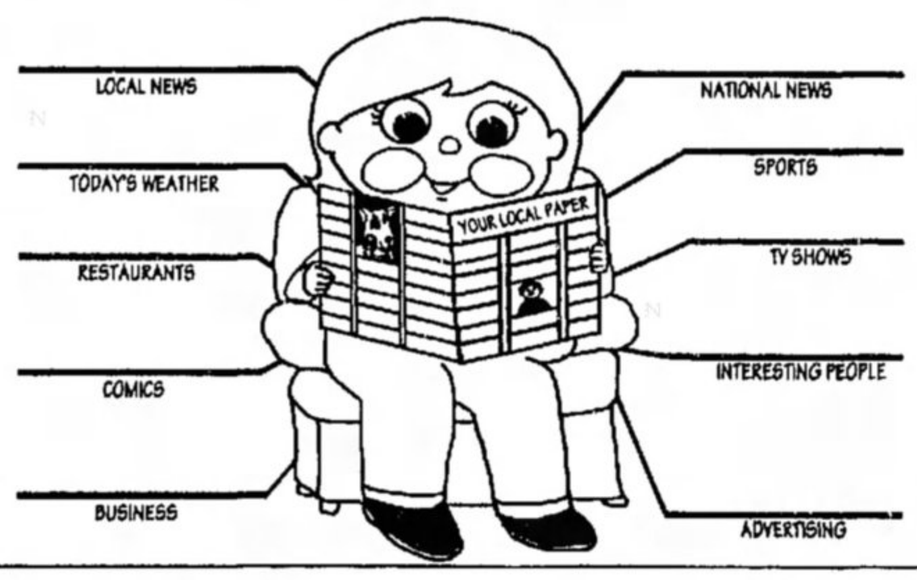
NIE Web sites:
www.naafoundation.org/NewspaperInEducation/NIEwebsites-and-resources.aspx

Daytona Beach News-Journal:
www.news-journalonline.com

Next week, The Mini Page celebrates Music in Our Schools Month with a story about the oldest musical instruments.

The Mini Page thanks Jim Abbott, with the Newspaper Association of America Foundation, for help with this issue.

Can you help Alpha Betty find the things she's looking for in your paper? Fill in the blanks on the web below with the headline of each exa ple you find, along with the page nu ber. You've just connected with your newspaper! And your newspaper has just connected you with your world.



C-O-N-N-E-C-T to your world

C is for **community**. A newspaper is at the heart of a community.

O is for **online** content. Many newspapers now have online editions.

N is for **newspaper**. This important tool helps us be responsible members of the community.

N is for **now**. Newspapers provide us with the information we need right now.

E is for **entertainment**. Newspapers provide all kinds of information about entertaining events in our community.

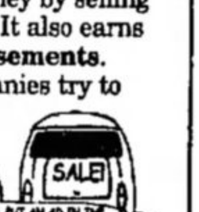
C is for **constant**. A newspaper is a constant look at what's happening in our world.

T is for **teachers**, who help us learn to use newspapers for information, entertainment and opinions.

from The Mini Page © 2008 Universal Press Syndicate

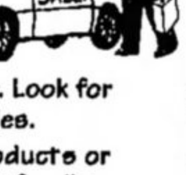
MIGHTY FUNNY'S Mini Jokes

All the following jokes have something in common. Can you guess the common theme or category?



Spencer: What is a good first name for a lawyer?
Stacy: Sue!

Sam: What do nearsighted lawyers wear?
Stanley: Contract lenses!



Sarah: When words break the law, what happens?
Stewart: They get sentenced!

from The Mini Page © 2008 Universal Press Syndicate

Basset Brown The News Hound's Newspapers TRY 'N FIND

Words that remind us of newspapers are hidden in the block below. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find: CONNECT, COMMUNITY, NEWSPAPER, SUBSCRIPTION, DELIVERY, REGION, BUSINESS, CULTURE, SELL, ARTICLES, ADS, OPINION, WEB, CARTOON, LETTERS, INDEX, FEATURE, READ, LOCAL, WORLD.

B R K N L P D E L I V E R Y V
U O E M O X B A R T I C L E S
S P C P C I E F E A T U R E T
I I A Q A J G D Y R D Z L H C
N N R W L P D E N J U S K B E
E I T S U B S C R I P T I O N
S O O D L R O W Q S E L L P N
S N O S R E T T E L C H Q U O
Q Z N B E W Y T I N U M M O C

Mini Spy ...

Mini Spy and Rookie Cookie are working on a school project using newspapers. See if you can find: • man in the moon • word MINI

- elephant
- letter N
- ice-cream cone
- olive • bucket
- letter D
- kite • key
- lima bean
- carrot • bell
- safety pin
- eyeglasses
- number 3
- pencil • bird
- tin can • ladder

The Mini Page Staff

Betty Debnam - Contributing Editor Lisa Tarry - Managing Editor Lucy Lien - Associate Editor Wendy Daley - Artist

This Mini-Page Is Sponsored by MVHR Mon-Vale Health Resources, Inc.

EASTGATE 19, MONESSEN, PA 15062
MONDAY-FRIDAY 8:30AM-5:00PM

Valley INDEPENDENT

TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

CLASSIFIED

VALLEYINDEPENDENT.COM 724.684.5200 FAX: 724.684.2602

RECRUITMENT
DAILY: 1:30PM, Day Prior
MONDAY: 4:30PM, Friday
SUNDAY: 11AM, Wednesday

MERCHANDISE
4 LINES • 4 DAYS
$14.30 PRE-PAY
DAILY: 1:30PM, Day Prior
MONDAY: 4:30PM, Friday
SUNDAY: 11AM, Wednesday

GARAGE SALES
5 LINES • 3 DAYS
$18.65
DAILY: 1:30PM, Day Prior
MONDAY: 4:30PM, Friday
SUNDAY: 11AM, Wednesday

SERVICE DIRECTORY
3 LINES • 30 DAYS
$59.77 PRE-PAY
DAILY: 1:30PM, Day Prior
MONDAY: 4:30PM, Friday
SUNDAY: 11AM, Wednesday

AUTOMOTIVE
4 LINES • 26 DAYS
$34.78 PRE-PAY PRIVATE PARTY ONLY
DAILY: 1:30PM, Day Prior
MONDAY: 4:30PM, Friday
SUNDAY: 11AM, Wednesday

RUN UNTIL IT SELLS!
4 LINES
PRIVATE PARTY MERCHANDISE ONLY. NO BUSINESSES, AUTOS, BOATS, RV'S, REAL ESTATE, MOBILE HOMES OR APARTMENTS.
ASKING PRICE OF ITEM IS REDUCED EVERY TWO WEEKS BY 5%
$19.45 PRE-PAY
DAILY: 1:30PM, Day Prior
MONDAY: 4:30PM, Friday
SUNDAY: 11AM, Wednesday

PRE-PAY WITH VISA MasterCard

GENERAL INFORMATION: The Tribune-Review Publishing Company reserves the right to edit or reject any advertising copy and determine the correct classification of any advertisement. MISPRINTS: Notice of error should be reported to the Classified Department immediately. The Tribune-Review Publishing Company will not be responsible for more than the cost of that part of an ad rendered valueless by the error. CONFIDENTIALITY: Confidential box numbers – we do not disclose the name of any advertiser using our classified pages. Persons answering File Number ads who wish to protect their identity can do so as follows: Place your reply in an envelope addressed to the File Box at the Valley Independent Classified Department, Eastgate 19, Monessen, PA 15062. Include the file number and a list of firms or persons you DO NOT want your reply to reach. If the advertiser is anyone you've listed, we'll destroy your reply. NOTICE: All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin, familial status or handicap, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. The paper accepts only recruitment advertising meeting EOE standards. The newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising which is in violation of the law.

Service Directory

From Electricity to Grass mowing. We have the pros.

Valley INDEPENDENT

Service Directory 30 days pre-paid $53.01

VALLEY INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING INDEX

RECRUITMENT - 1000
1000 Help Wanted
1010 Accounting/Finance
1020 Computer/Technical
1030 Engineering
1040 Medical
1050 Sales
1060 Professional
1070 Resumes
1080 Employment
1090 Educational/Instruction
1100 Information
1110 Business Opportunity
1120 Situations
1130 Day Care

LEGAL - 2000
2000 Criminal Notices
2010 Estate Notices
2020 Bid Notices
2040 Civil Notices
2030 Meeting Notices
2050 Corporate Notices
2060 Government Notices

REAL ESTATE - 3000
SALES
3000 Open Houses
3005 For Sale - Alleg. Co. N
3010 For Sale - Alleg. Co. S
3015 For Sale - Alleg. Co. E
3020 For Sale - Alleg. Co. W
3025 For Sale - Pittsburgh/City
3030 For Sale - Armstrong
3035 For Sale - Beaver
3040 For Sale - Butler
3045 For Sale - Fayette
3050 For Sale - Green
3055 For Sale - Indiana
3056 For Sale - Mon Valley
3060 For Sale - Washington
3065 For Sale - Westmoreland
3070 Condos
3075 Lots/Acreage
3080 Mobile Homes/Spaces
3085 Farms
3090 Manufactured Homes
RENT
3500 Apt./Rent - Alleg. Co. N
3505 Apt./Rent - Alleg. Co. S
3510 Apt./Rent - Alleg. Co. E
3515 Apt./Rent - Alleg. Co. W
3520 Apt./Rent - Pittsburgh/City
3525 Apt./Rent - Armstrong
3530 Apt./Rent - Beaver
3535 Apt./Rent - Butler
3540 Apt./Rent - Fayette
3545 Apt./Rent - Green
3550 Apt./Rent - Indiana
3551 Apt./Rent - Mon Valley
3555 Apt./Rent - Washington
3560 Apt./Rent - Westmoreland
3565 Houses/Rent - Alleg. Co. N
3570 Houses/Rent - Alleg. Co. S
3575 Houses/Rent - Alleg. Co. E
3580 Houses/Rent - Alleg. Co. W
3585 Houses/Rent - Pittsburgh/City
3590 Houses/Rent - Armstrong
3595 Houses/Rent - Beaver
3600 Houses/Rent - Butler
3605 Houses/Rent - Fayette
3610 Houses/Rent - Greene
3615 Houses/Rent - Indiana
3617 Houses/Rent - Mon Valley
3620 Houses/Rent - Washington
3625 Houses/Rent - Westmoreland
3630 Apts./Complex
3635 Sales/Rent
3640 Rooms/Rent
3645 Mobile Rentals
3650 Wanted Rent

COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE - 3700
3700 Commercial - Rent
3705 Commercial - Sales
3710 Industrial - Rent
3715 Industrial - Sales
3720 Investment Property
3725 Wanted Rent

ANNOUNCEMENTS - 4000
4000 Adoption
4010 Cemetery Lots
4020 Entertainment
4030 Financial
4040 Home Improvements
4050 Insurance
4060 Legal Services
4070 Lost & Found
4080 Memoriams
4090 Miscellaneous
4100 Personals
4110 Personal Services
4120 Thanks
4130 Tickets

MERCHANDISE - 5000
5000 Apparel & Jewelry
5010 Appliances
5020 Articles
5030 Auctions
5040 Building Material
5050 Business Equipment
5060 Computers
5070 Electronics
5080 Exercise Equipment
5090 Farm Equipment
5100 Feed
5110 Food
5120 Fuel
5130 Furniture
5140 Garden
5150 Home Health Care
5160 Livestock
5170 Machinery/Hardware
5180 Musical
5190 Restaurant Equipment
5200 Top Soil
5210 Trade/Swap
5220 Wanted To Buy

GARAGE SALES - 5300
5300 Flea Markets
5310 Garage Sales

PETS - 5500
5500 Adoptions
5510 Pet In Memoriams
5520 Animal Shelters
5530 Animal Shows
5540 Birds
5550 Cats
5560 Dogs - AKC/Purebred
5570 Dogs - Mixed
5580 Horses
5585 Pets - Mixed
5590 Kennels/Boarding
5600 Lost & Found
5610 Pet Supplies/Services

AUTOMOTIVE - 6000
6000 Travel
6010 Recreational Vehicles
6020 Motorcycles
6030 Trucks
6040 Sport Utility
6050 Parts & Accessories
6060 Vans
6070 Leasing/Rentals
6080 Auto Sales
6090 Antique/Classic
6100 Wanted To Buy
6110 Auto Service Dealers

1000/GENERAL

BARTENDER/STEWARD for private club. Day and evening hours. To apply, call after 6pm. 724-929-2225

Chief Estimator
GENERAL INDUSTRIES, seeks an experienced CHIEF ESTIMATOR for a rapidly growing general contractor. 5+ years experience in the commercial/industrial construction industry on projects ranging from $1M to $15M. Design/Build experience a plus. Computer knowledge required. Competitive salary & full benefits offered for full time position. Send resume with salary requirements to: General Industries, 15 Arentzen Blvd., Charleroi, PA 15022. Fax 724-483-0990 or email to genindempads@yahoo.com EOE

1000/GENERAL

CALIFORNIA MOTOR ROUTE DRIVER
- 68 Papers Mon.-Sat.
- California/Malden Area
- Approx. $850/month
- 2½ hrs. daily

CALL 724-684-2648

CIRCULATION ASSISTANTS
Opportunities to Join a Winning Team!

The Tribune-Review Publishing Company has open positions for Part-time Circulation Assistants.
Currently an exciting opportunity exists for the right individual. A chance to earn, learn and advance.

- Steady Part-time, approx. 30 hrs./wk.
- Early morning hours
- Delivery & customer service skills necessary
- Work Independently
- Competitive wage & auto allowance

If interested, call Ken Planinsek at
724-850-2826
TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

CLERK TYPIST
Part-Time
Southwest Behavioral Care, Inc. has an opening in the Monessen Office for a part-time Clerk Typist. Will perform office tasks, type reports, complete and process program-related forms and maintain all records. Must have excellent typing skills. Electronic data processing skills desired. Interested persons may submit resume to: Attn: Dept. 0823, PO Box 66, Charleroi, PA 15022. For additional information, log on to our homepage address at www.sphs.org. Our email address is postmaster@sphs.org

An Equal Opportunity Employer

CONSTRUCTION Laborers wanted, immediate openings. Call Lloyd 724-736-4770 ext. 1

COOK- experienced dinner- 5-6hrs/day. Call or stop by for application. Teddy's Tavern, 1305 Axton St., Belle Vernon. 724-929-5971

COOK part-time, flexible hrs. for American Croatian Citizens Club Donora. Call after 4pm 724-379-4871

DOWN ROUTE DRIVER
Part-time position, approximately 25 hrs./week. Assist district managers with the delivery of newspapers to subscribers on routes that temporarily have no carrier. Must possess valid PA driver's license and reliable vehicle. Hourly rate plus mileage. Applications available at The Valley Independent, Eastgate 19, Monessen, PA 15062 or email your resume to lhutchison@tribweb.com

1000/GENERAL

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS
Thursday, February 28, 2008
12pm-4pm
PA CAREER LINK MON VALLEY
570 Galiffa Drive, Donora, PA
Call with questions or to secure interview 800-485-6502.
Must have two forms of ID (Ex. Driver's License & SS Card)

Openings exist for the following:

- **Construction laborer** with prior carpentry, nail gun exp. & ability to read tape measure. Daylight position $8/hr.
- **Fitter/welder** with ability to pass weld test & read blueprints. $12-$13/hr.
- **Ceramic pipe liner** with ceramic or refractory & wet saw/brick saw exp. $11/hr.
- **Industrial electrician** with formal training & prior industrial & high voltage experience. Canonsburg area, union facility. $13.92 with op to raise to $14.92.
- **Loader/operator/laborer** to work in production facility operating L90 Volvo hi lift. $10/hr.
- **Receptionist** to answer multi-line phone, with MS Office & data entry experience.
- **Machine operator/laborer** with prior drill press, vertical boring mill & ind. exp., for Washington Co. $10.50/hr.
- **Motor Winders** with prior AC or DC motor winding experience.

gs services

EOE/MF

ESTIMATOR
Needed for machine/fab/weld job shop. Must demonstrate strong manufacturing and repair experience in a shop environment. Ability to work closely with others, prioritize to meet deadlines and interact with customers. Position offers competitive wage and excellent benefit package including 401k plan, medical, dental, vision, vacation and paid holidays. Apply in person or send resume to: SMS Millcraft, 750 Manifold Road, Washington, PA 15301

FLOWER SHOP help wanted. Must work weekends. Those interested please call 724-684-4211

Full-Time
- COOK
- WAITRESS
- HOUSEKEEPING

Part-Time
- HOSTESS

--Apply in Person--
Belle Vernon Holiday Inn

JANITORIAL floor care position, 3rd shift Belle Vernon area. No experience needed. Starting pay $9/hr. Call 412-287-7583

LOOKING FOR A NEW RIDE? FIND IT HERE. CLASSIFIEDS WORK!

HOUSEKEEPER PT, experienced & reliable only. Non-smoking. Call after 3pm 724-929-7010

LABORERS wanted for poured concrete foundation co. Full-time, 5 ½ days per week. PA driver's license & transportation. Drug test. Apply in person 734 Happy Hollow Rd., Elizabeth, PA. 412-384-3000.

LANDSCAPE
Looking for a change? Eichenlaub, Inc. in Pittsburgh, PA needs staff to build a growing team for building & maintaining landscapes. Earn $20-$45,000 annually. Benefits. Full-time. Driver's license required. $500 signing bonus. 412-767-4769 ext. 350. www.eichenlaub.com

MANAGER
Needed for hair salon. Full-time. Send letter of interest and/or resume in confidence to: Box 892, c/o Valley Independent, Eastgate 19, Monessen, PA 15062

MECHANIC
Experience in Heavy Equipment repair welding a plus. Full time for a fast growing transloading company located in Westmoreland County. Excellent wage & benefits. Please send resume with wage requirements to: PO Box 63, Belle Vernon, PA 15012 or email admin@trmrt.com

1000/GENERAL

MH/MR Support Staff
Laurel Highlands Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization that supports persons with MH/MR developmental disabilities, is currently seeking part-time and full-time support staff to work in our community homes in the West Newton, Turkeytown Rd., New Stanton, and Elizabeth areas. No experience is necessary. Paid training. Must be at least 18 years of age and have valid PA driver's license. Starting rate is $8.63/hour with benefits after 90 days, increase to $8.86/hr. after 6 months. EOE. Call ONLY Mon.-Fri., 9-3pm. 412-825-9141.

MOLLY MAID
Seeking dependable people for light housekeeping Mon.-Fri., daylight hours. No experience necessary.
724-258-8498

NIGHT CREW
Part-Time
Needed at Giant Eagle, Tri County Plaza, Belle Vernon. Hours are 10:30pm-7am. Previous retail or grocery experience a plus. Call:
1-877-EAGLEJOB

NOTICE TO READERS:
While work-at-home and other informational advertising is often legitimate, we advise readers to fully investigate the background of any company before paying a fee. If an offer sounds "too good to be true", it probably is. Proceed with caution if you are asked to send money or in calling 900 numbers. All phone numbers prefixed by "900" are charged to the caller on a per minute or per call basis. The Valley Independent makes every effort to qualify these charges for the reader. Remember, if you have any doubts, investigate!

NURSES AIDE
Full-time, Midnight Shift
In Monessen
Call 724-684-8170

OPERATOR- heavy equipment, for local construction co. Call between 8:30am-4pm 724-222-8518.

PROGRAM ASSISTANT to provide a caring, family-like environment in the Belle Vernon area. Responsible for assisting with the day to day operations of a group home. All shifts available. Call to schedule interview, 724-929-8137. Serious inquiries only please. E.O.E.

SALES Associates PT & FT. Competitive wage, sales incentives avail. Customer service/retail exp. preferred. Apply in person. Cal Cuthbert Pools 733 Broad Ave., Belle Vernon, PA

SITTER NEEDED for elderly woman, flexible hours. $10.00 per hour. Call 724-929-3642

LOOKING FOR A NEW PAD? FIND IT HERE. CLASSIFIEDS WORK!

1010/ACCOUNTING/FINANCE

MEMBER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE
Position with local financial institution. Part-time. Experience preferred. Flexible hours. Reply to Box 856 c/o The Valley Independent Eastgate 19, Monessen, PA 15062.

1025/DRIVERS

ARMANDO'S PIZZA-BIG BUCKS!! Part-time delivery driver wanted. Day shift. Apply in person, 538 Fallowfield Ave., Charleroi.

DRIVER local delivery, must have clean driving record & CDL Class B minimum requirement. Apply in person Valley Tire Co., Inc., 2107 Gibsonton Rd., Belle Vernon, PA.

1040/MEDICAL

MEDI HOME HEALTH
We Need You To Complete Our Staff Of Caring Professionals

REGISTERED NURSE- must be licensed in PA and have a current driver's license. Home Health experience preferred. One year experience as a staff nurse in an acute care setting. Full-time or part-time.

LPN- graduate of an approved school of licensed practical nursing. Must be licensed to practice in PA and a valid PA driver's license. Home care experience preferred. Must have at least one year experience in a home care setting or state licensed care facility. Full-time or part-time.

PHYSICAL THERAPIST- must be licensed in PA. Graduate of an accredited school and at least one year experience as a physical therapist. Full-time or part-time to cover visits in Baldwin/Whitehall, Brentwood, West Mifflin, Jefferson Hills, Pleasant Hills and McKeesport.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST- must be licensed in PA and REGISTERED with the American Occupational Therapy Association. Minimum of one year OT and Home Health experience preferred. Full-time or part-time position.

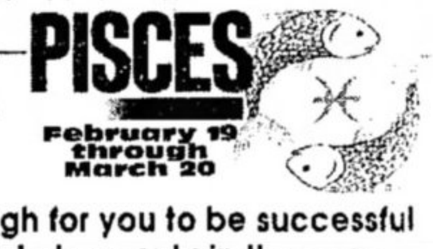
Positions available in Monongahela and surrounding areas. Please send resume referencing the job title. We offer a competitive wage, generous benefit package including 401K and profit sharing. Sign-on bonus for full-time RNs.

MEDI HOME HEALTH
412-824-0849 fax
PAJobs@msa-corp.com
1-888-245-6331
E.O.E.

ORTHODONTIC OFFICE FRONT DESK SECRETARY
FT or PT position for multi-office practice in the Mon Valley & South Hills areas. Email resumes to monvalleyortho@hotmail.com

ASTRO GRAPH
Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday
WEDNESDAY, FEB. 27, 2008



PISCES
February 19 through March 20

It won't be enough for you to be successful on the material plane only in the year ahead. It will become important for you to evaluate your life from a broader dimension. On your search for the purpose of life, you'll grow immensely.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) -- Usually you are the kind of individual who always allows for small frailties in others, because you know everyone has feet of clay. Don't start to allow yourself to become fault finding and hypercritical.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- It's unlike you, so you're not apt to be on guard against being gullible and could get caught up in its falseness. This is especially true if you involve yourself in something that's wishful thinking.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- One of the major reasons you and your mate will find yourselves in total opposition is because neither of you will be articulating your true feelings in an effective manner. Level with one another.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- Keep your mind on what you're doing and don't let your attention wander, especially when working with unfamiliar materials or tools. Daydreaming could produce undesirable consequences.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- You are not beyond taking a well-thought-out, calculated risk, especially in your commercial affairs, but be careful not to take one based upon wishful thinking. In cases of this ilk, you're apt to lose.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Those with whom you'll be involved are likely to emulate whatever example you set, so it behooves you to establish one you like. Don't be abrasive or difficult to get along with because they will be as well.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- There's a good chance you will find yourself in the company of someone you feel has wronged you in the past. If you take it upon yourself to resurrect your feelings, something unpleasant will occur.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- If you are in need of some sound financial advice, be extremely selective to whom you turn for counsel. Well-intentioned friends who are as unknowledgeable about things as you are could hurt you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- Remember how you felt when you believed someone had treated you in a deceitful or unkind manner? Don't do the same to another regardless of what reasons you have. Your reputation will suffer.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- You are always imaginative and a visionary, but sometimes this wonderful gift can work against you, especially when you view life more negatively than positively. Don't let the former predominate.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Should you find yourself feeling a bit envious or jealous of a close, dear friend, examine your motives honestly. If you find you're merely being self-serving, turn this around and be happy for your pal.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- Don't be surprised if you find associates becoming frustrated if you continue to be vacillating and won't take a stance on important mutual interests. To be respected, you can't be wishy-washy.

Find your dream home!

REAL ESTATE • CLASSIFIEDS

TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

www.tribrealestate.com

1040/MEDICAL

PHYSICAL THERAPIST

Full-time/Part-time needed for home visits in the Mon Valley area. Must have 1 yr. recent exp. Call Jeanne Henry 1-800-447-2030 or fax resume 412-436-2215. EOE M/F/V/H

Int-rim HEALTHCARE

1050/SALES

OUTSIDE SALES REPS

Full or Part Time
Flexible Hours
Excellent Income Potential

We are looking for aggressive, results-oriented salespeople to join our team to market Home Delivery of

Tribune-Review Publishing Company

Crew leader, storefront and door-to-door positions are available.

Please call 412-610-6378

9am-5:30pm Monday
8am-3pm Tues. & Wed.
8am-12 Thursday
Closed Friday

1110/BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

★ LAWN CARE ★ Business For Sale

Well established, turn key operation. Includes equipment & clientele. Call for more details, leave message:

724-929-3952

7 DAY ROUTES AVAILABLE Tribune Review Fallowfield Twp. And Donora Areas Call Jason at 724-272-4437

LOOKING FOR ADVENTURE? CHECK OUTDOOR ADVENTURES. CLASSIFIEDS WORK! TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

1110/BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

DONORA ROUTES OPEN
9th, W. 10th W. 11th, W. 12th
22 Papers
No Collecting
Call Melissa At 724-684-2647

MONESSEN MOTOR ROUTE OPEN
45 Minutes A Day
Approx. $190 A Month
Call Melissa At 724-684-2647

MONESSEN ROUTE AVAILABLE
Coolidge Ave.
Mellon Ave.
No Collecting
Only 13 Papers
Call 724-684-2647

2010/ESTATE NOTICES

Kovacik, Charles
ESTATE NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Register of Wills has granted Letters Testamentary to the person named below, in the Estate of Charles G. Kovacik, a/k/a Gregory Kovacik, late of Donora, Washington County, Pennsylvania. All persons having claims or demands against said Estate are requested to present the same without delay. All persons indebted to said Estate are requested to make immediate payment to the Executrix or her attorney named below.

Executrix:
Julie N. Kovacik,
a/k/a Julia Kovacik
622 Third Street
Donora, PA 15033

Attorney:
SHIRE LAW FIRM
1295 Grand Blvd.
Suite 103, Grand Plaza
Monessen, PA 15062
2/26,3/4,11

2030/MEETING NOTICES

NOTICE OF HEARING
BOROUGH OF SPEERS

A Hearing on THE REQUEST TO TRANSFER the Liquor License of Boat Galley Restaurant, Inc., 735 Front Street, Fredericktown, East Bethlehem Township, PA 15333, License Number R-10195, LID #53834 to Boat Galley Restaurant, Inc., a Pennsylvania Corporation, 119 River Avenue, Belle Vernon, Speers Borough, Washington County, PA 15022, will be held by Borough Council on March 5, 2008 at 7:15 PM at the Municipal Building, 300 Phillips Street, Speers, PA.

BOROUGH OF SPEERS
Helen Cunningham,
Borough Secretary
2/26

4000/ADOPTION

ADOPT

Abundance of LOVE, secure future, musical family wishing to adopt your precious baby. Legal/Confidential Expenses Paid

Call Dale Eileen at 1-888-822-0146

4070/LOST & FOUND

FIND SOMETHING?
LOSE SOMETHING?
Place your lost & found ad FREE. Runs 4 days at no charge. Call 724-684-5200.

FOUND cell phone Staples parking lot, Belle Vernon. Call 724-797-4441.

LOOKING FOR A NEW RIDE? FIND IT HERE. CLASSIFIEDS WORK!

LOOKING FOR LOVE? CHECK OUT MEETING PLACE. CLASSIFIEDS WORK! TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

AT BREAKFAST IN YOUR RECLINER AT YOUR MOUSE IN YOUR CAR EVERYWHERE YOU ARE WHEN NEWS IS HAPPENING TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

4100/PERSONALS

$195 DIVORCE COMPLETE

No-Fault Uncontested
Reisman & Davis, Pgh
-No Court Appearance or Travel To Office
-Free Information

1-800-486-4070 24Hrs

ALONE & PREGNANT?

A Confidential Caring Friend
Free Pregnancy Test
LIFELINE OF S.W. PA
Call Hotline 24 Hrs.
724-489-9020

5000/APPAREL & JEWELRY

CAR COAT- ladies size 6-8, new, water repellant. Was $100, now $20. 724-326-5589

DRESS- City Triangle, size S. Was $79, asking $30. 724-929-7622, 724-929-0116

DRESS- City Triangle, size L, was $80; asking $30. 724-929-7622, 724-929-0116

DRESS- Jessica McClintock size 6, was $125; asking $50. 724-929-7622, 724-929-0116

DRESSES- Jovani size 4 $175; LaFemme/paris size 8 $175; Tiffany size 6 $225; Panoply size 2 $125 724-929-7622, 724-929-0116.

HARLEY DAVIDSON leather & wool jacket XL, excellent condition, $124.00 724-872-0151.

NECKLACE- genuine sapphire & diamond. $50. 724-469-3790.

NECKLACE- genuine garnet cross. $50. Call 724-469-3790.

PEARL BRACELET- cultured freshwater, sterling silver. $50. Call 724-469-3790.

RIDING BOOTS black leather, size 8W, never worn, paid $110, sell $50. 724-326-4627.

RUBY RING- 18kt gold, size 7. $50. Call 724-469-3790.

5020/ARTICLES

OFFICE DESK- pecan wood, w/glass top, 2 large file drawers. 30W x60Lx30H. $300. 724-684-7310 after 5pm.

5020/ARTICLES

POWER CHAIR- large, Quantum 600 with extras. $905. Call 724-483-3156.

TYPEWRITER electronic, word processor, mgmt functions, etc. $50. 724-314-3014.

5030/AUCTIONS

AUCTION SALE SAT., MARCH 1 starting 10am

Moved for convenience to Rittenhouse Auction Center, 501 Town Country Road, 9 miles North of Uniontown, PA on Rt. 51- turn at Town Country Rd. to Sale Site. Partial Listing of Uniontown home: walnut double bedroom suite; maple double bedroom; print wood frame 2 pc. living room; Magnavox console TV & portable TV; decorator chairs; castor invalid chair; 2 dinette sets, chairs; high chair; mahogany kneehole desk; GE stack stereo; records; radios; cookware; kettles; dishes; red flyer wagon; stove crock; Maytag ST wringer washer; lawn trimmer; hand tools; lawn chairs; Another large lot of Jewelry: rings, pins, bracelets, 14K gold, sterling from Brownsville Estate plus other items. Terms: Cash or approved check. Inspection just prior to Auction.
Rittenhouse Auction Company RY-136-L
724-438-0581
www.rittenhouseauction.com

AUCTION Wed., Feb. 27, 6pm

Strickler's Auction House, 234 Main St., Fayette City. Gold & sterling jewelry, crystal lamp, 1900's baseball uniform, clocks & watches, boxed T Fal, Edison piano rolls, Bisque dolls & clowns, Hubley & Tootsie toys, McCoy & Weller wall pockets, banks, pink Depression, Carnival & Fenton, Tonka, 2 hammer shot guns, long rifle, boxed kitchen appliances, erector sets. LARGE Sale. See auctionzip.com. Don Strickler, Auctioneer, AU3581-L; phone 724-326-4050

Recruiting, totally covered.

Trib Total Media makes finding the perfect employee a breeze. Turn to the *Employment* sections of our daily and weekly newspapers and deliver job postings to readers in your neighborhood and across the region or visit ***PAJobMatch.com*** to reach job seekers on the web. Trib Total Media's newspapers, magazines and websites have you totally covered.

TRIB TOTAL MEDIA
www.tribtotalmedia.com

FIND IT FIRST IN THE VALLEY INDEPENDENT

Service Directory

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AND BUSINESSES IN THE MID-MON VALLEY

AIR DUCT CLEANING

TRI COUNTY Air Duct Cleaning. Duct work cleaned & sanitized. Free video est. 724-483-3411.

APPLIANCES

WES'S Used Appliances
90 Day Warranty
$75 & Up
724-529-2863

APPLIANCE PARTS

CHARLEROI SWEEPER
vacuums - repairs - parts.
618 Fallowfield Ave.
724-483-3397.

AUCTION SERVICE

STRICKLER'S Auction Service. Estates or consignments. 724-326-4050. Buy or sell.

AUTO SERVICE/REPAIRS

GRECO'S Automotive Services. PA Enhanced emisson testing, remanufacture used motors & trans. installed, head gaskets, clutches, computer diagnostic, major auto repair. Insured. 724-938-2911, 800-640-2902. ASE Certified

WEIDMAN TRANSMISSIONS Import Specialist, Domestic, heavy equipment & Allison Trucks Call Jim 412-384-4822.

BUILDING MATERIALS

RAILROAD TIES
All Grades & Sizes
Call 724-489-1180

BUILDING/REMODELING

S. MANGES CONST. - specializing in additions, decks, roofs, garages, siding, all home remodeling. Free est. Insured. 724-258-7722.

BUZZY BYRON siding, windows, soffit, fascia, downspouts & gutters, ptg., additions, plumbing, electrical, sewer cleaning & camera service. 724-684-8699 724-309-5130.

CCS INC. All home improvements. Free est. Calls will be returned. 724-348-6276.

RAINEY ENTERPRISE- 20 years exp., fully insured. Home improvements, new construction, garage packages, siding, new bathrooms & kitchens. 724-929-8733.

CARPETING

CALL Carpeting Unlimited for a personal evening viewing of new flooring in your home. Carpet, hardwood, ceramic, cork, formica & vinyl. Tues. - Wed. -Thurs., 8am - 4pm or by appt. 724-258-4845.

CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING

MILLER'S Magic Carpet Cleaning. Whole house special $139*. Clean 4 areas for only $109. Powerful truck mounted units. 724-483-2370.

CARPET CLEANING

CLEANS GREAT & dries quickly. NO SOAKING! Call Tri County Chem Dry 724-483-9553.

CLEANING SERVICES

SPOTLESS CLEANING general housecleaning at it's best. Dependable. References. 724-872-1089.

GENERAL Housecleaning. 10 yrs. experience. Call 724-684-4507.

Classiified Ads Work. Call The Vally Independent Newspaper.

CONCRETE & BLOCK

Muccino Const. Specializing in driveways, walks, steps, porches, floors. All types retaining walls, block work. Free est. Insured. 724-929-6028.

ELECTRICAL

JACK'S ELECTRICAL Contracting. Specializing in older homes. More than 25 years. Free est. 724-489-9109.

ELECTRICAL SERVICE/ SUPPLIES

O&O ELECTRIC- new & old work. Free est., fully ins. Alan 724-433-2183.

EXCAVATING

TUDAY Const. & Excavating. Concrete, driveways, sidewalks, garages, utilities, ditch work. 724-787-5064.

FENCING

DON'S FENCE chain link, wood, vinyl; hand rails & all your fencing needs. Free est. rea. rates. 724-929-3218.

FIREWOOD

SPLIT/ seasoned, cherry/ hardwood. 1/2 cord del. $65. B.V. 724-816-2630.

SPLIT, SEASONED
1/2 cord, $65
full cord, $130
Call 724-640-5277.

FIREWOOD well screened, cherry, oak, maple, unlimited quantities, $150 cord. 724-929-4458.

FLOOR INSTALLATION

ROBERT HANNAN vinyl, hardwood, carpeting, ceramic. Ins. Guaranteed. 724-929-4330.

FUNDRAISING

STAR FUNDRAISING, INC. Subs, cookie dough, fresh/ frozen pizzas. All groups. 724-547-8008.

GLASS BLOCK WINDOWS

PANELS done professionally to fit any opening. Very reasonable. 724-379-4255.

HAULING

CLEAN OUT whole house, basements, stores, attics, sheds. Scrap metal hauled. 724-483-2140.

PRIDE HAULING & Contracting Services
All Types of Hauling
Clean-Outs/Roll-off
Dump Truck Service
724-938-2680
412-780-0862
Credit Cards Accepted

GENERAL hauling & clean-ups, cellars, garages, yards. Dep. Rich 724-872-0865, 1-800-566-4167.

HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

MY Heating & Air Cond. Service, installation, sales. Authorized Rheem & Ruud Dealer. 24 hr. service, fully ins., free est. 724-797-3772, 724-938-3695.

HOME IMPROVEMENT

STASKO Restoration all your home needs. Int. & Ext. const. & renovations. 724-258-2473.

HOME REPAIR

HANDYMAN MATTERS Bonded & Insured. BBB. 724-258-4884.

INSURANCE

GOOD CREDIT - BAD CREDIT FOR AUTO RATES
We know our rates Best
YOU QUALIFY WITH US
Let Us Quote You
RAMSDELL AGENCY
724-929-4200.

LAWN MOWER REPAIR

BECK'S Repair all makes of push & riding mowers, rototillers, saws, snow blowers, gas & diesel farm tractors. Pick up & del. 724-258-4140.

LAWN SERVICE

LAWNS & shrubbery cut, trimmed, mulch, garden tilling. Free est. Ins. 724-258-3407.

MASONRY/CONCRETE

John Yurkovich Masonry. Retaining walls, sidewalks, patios, steps, driveways, chimneys, garages. Fully ins., free est. Over 11 yrs in business. 724-684-5014, 724-628-7349.

SEBASTIAN Enterprises. 20 yrs. exp., fully insured. All types retaining walls, patios, driveways, sidewalks. 724-929-8733.

MOVING & STORAGE

FRETZ TRANSFER 724-684-8499, 724-929-6869 & Fretz Mini Warehouse 724-684-6602, Monessen. Local moving & storage.

724-929-4200

PAINTING

BOB's - Professional painting at rea. prices. New home const., ptg. & staining. Sr. Cit. Disc. Fully ins. 724-929-6595, 929-9313.

M.V. PAINTING - Int. & ext. Experienced & Insured. Free est. Will beat any reasonable price. 724-929-1620.

INT. EXT. painting. Exp'd., insured, free est., affordable Michael Lundy 724-292-9004.

AFFORDABLE Ptg. Int. & ext. Free est. Fully ins. Mike Kanski. 724-872-6022.

PLASTERING

PLASTERING - New/repair work. Hardcoat/drywall fin. Barry Winters. 724-929-9765.

FANALA Plastering- 25 yrs. exp. Fully insured. 724-483-3712, 724-747-4373.

PLUMBING

GRECO PLUMB. Sewers opened, sewer, gas, water line installation, basement water proofing, water tanks. Prof. service. 724-684-4439, 379-8197.

PLUMBING CON'T

NEAL PLUMBING Registered Master, professional service. Fully ins. 724-258-0113.

QUICK RESPONSE Plumbing. Heat/AC. Registered Master. Certified gas line installer. Expert sewer cleaning. Ins. 866-732-4433 or 724-258-7724

WATER HEATER problems? Call Tom Patterson your Rheem Water Heater Specialist. 724-929-6797.

LENDWAY & SONS - general plumbing. 724-348-4644, 724-379-4962.

Classiified Ads Work. Call The Vally Independent Newspaper.

REMODELING

PAGER BROS. Remodeling. Int. & Ext. 20 yrs. exp. Ins. 724-931-0521.

ROOFING

A.T. KOURY new roofs, roof repairs, licensed & insured, chimney work, gutters, free est. 724-684-6042.

ROOFING CON'T

LARRY'S CONT. reasonable, reliable, new roofs & repairs, gutters cleaned, prompt service. 724-483-3117.

LENDWAY & SONS ROOFING, siding, decks & additions. 724-348-4644, 724-379-4962.

AMERICAN Roofing & Remodeling. roofing, vinyl siding, garages & additions built. 724-379-7868.

JIM G's roofing, soffit, fascia, siding, Fully ins. No down payment. 724-258-6777.

D & T CONSTRUCTION roofing, siding, additions, emergency roof repairs. Free est. Ins. 724-239-2183 724-809-0110.

You can advertise your service for as low as $59.77 per month. Call 724-684-5200.

SEPTIC CLEANING

MG SEPTIC & Drain Cleaning. Fair Prices. For professional service you won't want to miss! Call Joseph Manack anytime. 724-929-8152.

SNOW REMOVAL

SNOW REMOVAL & Ice Control. Cain's Contracting. Exp. Rea. Reliable. 724-489-4131.

STORAGE

A+ MINI STORAGE
5X10 $35 - 5X15 $40
10X10 $50 - 10X15 $55
10X20 $60. + Sales Tax.
805 Liberty Ave.
N. Charleroi.
724-483-6000.

TREE REMOVAL

TREE-CO big tree specialist. Trimming, log & stump removal. 724-929-4337.

TREE PRO- tree removal specialist. Best deals! Free est. Henry. 724-929-6097.

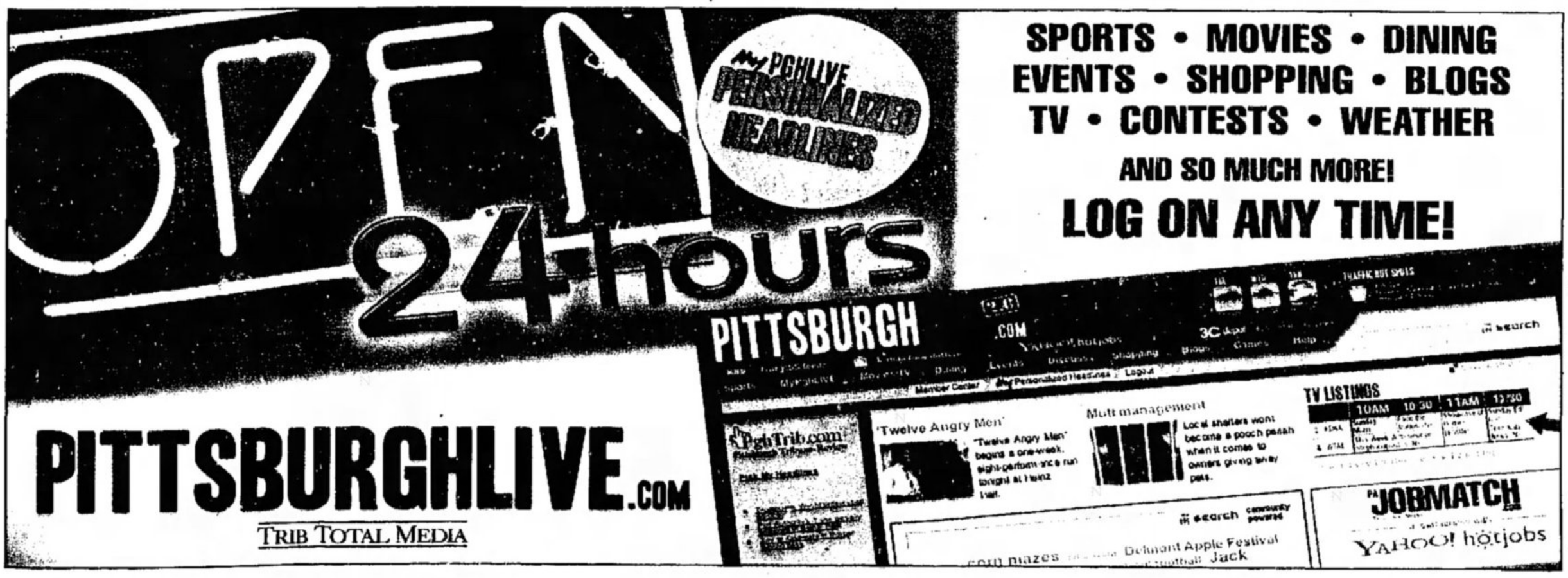
3G'S TREES & stump removal. Free est., fully ins. 724-489-4180, 724-483-6205.

LAROCHE Tree Service- tree trimming & removal. Insured. Local 740-359-0906.

Call The Classified Department Today To Place An Ad

WE ARE LOOKING FOR PICTURES TO FEATURE YOU

on the job performing your service, as shown above. You can mail photos to The Valley Independent Eastgate 19, Monessen, Pa 15062 or email to lmajor@tribweb.com (please include your name & business)



REAL ESTATE

3060/FOR SALE/WASH.

CALL FOR DETAILS

MONONGAHELA Retail store on 1st floor. Apartments on 2nd & 3rd floors. Asking $119,021.

MONONGAHELA Retail building plus offices, apartments on 2nd & 3rd floors. Asking $60,021.

MONONGAHELA 3 bedroom Cape Cod Freshly painted, newer carpet, furnace & windows. Reduced to $85,521.

Century 21
FRONTIER REALTY
724-348-7470

STOREROOM on 1st Floor
includes 2 apts. upstairs with separate utilities LOCATED: McKean Ave., Charleroi
$19,500
724-366-4946
or 724-438-4461

LOOKING TO MOVE? REAL ESTATE EVERY SUNDAY. CLASSIFIEDS WORK! TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

TOTAL MEDIA
NEWSPAPERS
RADIO
TELEVISION
MAGAZINES
INTERNET
PENNYSAVERS
TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

3060/FOR SALE/WASH.

CALL FOR DETAILS

CHARLEROI Well located brick ranch in Fallowfield Twp. 2 bedroom, large level lot, 2 car detached garage & Home Warranty. $119,900.

MONONGAHELA Get more for your money. Solid 2 story brick home, 2 bedroom, detached garage. Good investment property or great starter home. Call today. $40,000.

CHARLEROI Spacious is the word for this 3 bedroom, 2 story home. 1st floor laundry, private back yard. Must see. $69,900.

Century 21
FRONTIER REALTY
724-483-3004

3065/FOR SALE/WMLD.

CALL FOR DETAILS

MONESSEN Park Plan Area. 4 bedroom brick multi level. Has gorgeous hardwood floors, spacious rooms, a family room and sits on a beautiful corner lot! Must See! $127,400.

Century 21
FRONTIER REALTY
724-929-2180

3065/FOR SALE/WMLD.

MONESSEN 2 bedroom, new kitchen, appliances, bathroom, rugs, central air. Must see. Call 724-929-5584.

3066/FOR SALE/OTHER

BELLE VERNON

Why rent? This 2 bedroom has a double lot, off street parking, new kitchen, windows and more. $44,900.

NEW LISTING

Large 3 bedroom brick ranch with garage on a 100x120 lot. Gorgeous inside with new kitchen & baths. Super sized bedrooms, plenty of closet space, all new inside with neutral decor a must see. $159,900.

NORTHWOOD REALTY SERVICES
201 ASSOCIATES
724-929-1370

LOOKING FOR ADVENTURE? CHECK OUTDOOR ADVENTURES. CLASSIFIEDS WORK! TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

BUY IT! SELL IT! FIND IT! CLASSIFIEDS WORK! TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

3066/FOR SALE/OTHER

WE'LL PAY CASH FOR YOUR HOUSE ANY AREA, ANY CONDITION
--CALL US NOW--
724-986-3697
$500 REWARD FOR LEADS THAT WE PURCHASE
www.universalbuyshouses.com

3555/APTS-RENT/WASHINGTON

CHARLEROI 1 bedroom, cute, newly remodeled, all utilities incl. except electric. $450. Call 724-554-8282.

CHARLEROI

1 & 2 bedroom apts. for rent w/intercom, wall to wall carpet, washer/dryer. $325-$400. Security deposit. No pets.
724-292-1189
724-396-1140

CHARLEROI downtown full 1 bedroom, appliances, A/C & all utilities inc. $550+ sec. No pets. 724-244-2966.

DONORA- 1 bedroom apt., 1st floor, no steps. All utilities included including garbage. $425. Hud ok. 724-379-7327

MONONGAHELA- 1-2 bedroom, equipped kitchen, a/c, on bus line. Parking $300+. Call 724-292-9001.

IF WE DON'T HAVE IT, YOU DON'T NEED IT. CLASSIFIEDS

3555/APTS-RENT/WASHINGTON

MONONGAHELA 1, 2 & 3 bedroom new private apts. w/fireplaces, by bus stop. $300-$480. 724-258-2473.

3561/APT-RENT/OTHER

MONONGAHELA

Modern 1 bedroom apartment. Air conditioning, refrigerator, stove, elevator, intercom, laundry, storage, security. Starting at $350 + electric. Call 412-257-0902.

3605/HSE-RENT/FAYETTE

BROWNSVILLE 2 bedrooms. $350 + utilities. No pets. Call 724-326-4854.

3620/HSE-RENT/WASHINGTON

CHARLEROI 2 bedroom, 2 bath, new furnace & A/C, stove, refrigerator, washer, dryer inc. $550. 724-258-2281.

DONORA- 2 bedroom townhouse unit w/ac. $500+ security deposit. Utilities not included. No pets. 412-389-6080 or 724-258-7588.

DONORA- 3 bedroom house, nice yard. No pets. $525+ utilities. Hud ok. 724-263-9050.

MONONGAHELA Park Ave. 2 bedroom, newly remodeled, spacious home. Security, 1st mo., references. $450. 724-984-7083.

MONONGAHELA- 3 bed remodeled duplex, 1½ bath, a/c, dishwasher, laundry room. $540+ security. 724-379-4843

3620/HSE-RENT/WASHINGTON

N CHARLEROI- 2 bedroom, 1 bath, well kept, off-street parking. $400+ utilities. Call 724-246-2069.

NORTH CHARLEROI beautiful 5 bedroom home. $700/month. Call 724-678-0979.

3625/HSE-RENT/WMLD.

MONESSEN 2 to 3 bedroom single family 3 blocks from Douglas School, students welcome. $375+ utilities. 412-537-9584.

ROSTRAVER 2 bedroom plus home, appliances included. $650+ electric & garbage. Call 724-562-9364.

SMITHTON 3 bedroom, garage. No pets. Security deposit & references required. Call 724-872-9264

3700/COMMERCIAL RE

MODERN OFFICE OR RETAIL SPACE
BELLE VERNON
719 Broad Ave., air conditioning, 1,500 sq. ft., off street parking.
MONONGAHELA
215 Chess St. 2,000 sq. ft. Call 412-257-0902.

MONONGAHELA 1,400 sq. ft. store room, off street parking. 1235 Main St. Best location in town. 724-258-4595

N. BELLE VERNON Broad Ave. Perfect for professional, private office, recep. area, restroom, approx. 350 sq. ft. $375/mo. 724-684-5123.

5130/FURNITURE

EARLY AMERICAN sofa & chair, gold print, $150; dark blue recliner, like new, $150; 2 end tables & coffee table, marble tops, $150. 724-379-6138.

5195/SPORTING GOODS

GOLF CLUBS Power Built new, never used w/bag. $256. 724-483-6724, 412-551-4848.

5205/TOOLS/HARDWARE

ROUTER 2 HP Craftsman, variable speed, micro depth adjustment $50. 724-314-3014.

LOOKING FOR LOVE? CHECK OUT MEETING PLACE. CLASSIFIEDS WORK! TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

5220/WANTED TO BUY

$ $ $ $
Collector
BUYING GOLD & SILVER COINS JEWELRY & DENTAL GOLD PLATINUM & LIONEL TRAINS
Highest Prices Paid
-- WILL TRAVEL --
724-258-4189
$ $ $ $
A Cut Above the Rest Buying

STANDING TIMBER & LOGS

Free est. Highly recommended w/references in your area. 1 acre min. Call JE Logging 724-455-5723 or 724-322-0302

WANTED- Monessen High School Year Books 1974-75 & 1977-78. Good condition. Call 757-556-3591

5560/DOGS - PUREBRED

WEIMARANER Pups AKC reg., silver/gray, ready mid March, 1st shots, vet checked. $800. 724-489-4131.

5600/LOST & FOUND

FOUND young beautiful black sleek cat, gold eyes. Park area, Monessen. Very affectionate. 724-684-4645.

LOST- adult male cat, orange tiger striped, red collar. 500 block Lookout Ave. Charleroi. 724-483-0683.

6050/PARTS & ACCESSORIES

USED AUTO PARTS
At Affordable Prices
C&M AUTO RECYCLING
MONONGAHELA
724-258-3553

6080/AUTOS FOR SALE

2002 CHRYSLER Sebring, loaded, sunroof, V6 fuel injected, low miles. $5,700. 724-823-0000.

GERRY RAYMOND AUTOMOTIVE

JEEP WRANGLER 4x4 ..... $18,995
DODGE CALIBER RT $16,995
DODGE CHARGER $16,995
DODGE NITRO SXT $17,995
JEEP LAREDO $20,995
CHRYSLER PACIFICA AWD $19,995
JEEP COMMANDER $18,995

Rt. 51N, Belle Vernon
724-379-7300

LOOKING FOR A DREAM JOB? FIND IT HERE. CLASSIFIEDS WORK!

FLEA MARKETS & GARAGE SALE

5310/GARAGE/YARD SALES

N. BELLE VERNON-1039 Broad Ave. Indoor Sale Tues. thru Sat., 1-6pm. Baskets, clocks, small furniture items, lamps.

ADVERTISE IN OUR GARAGE SALE SECTION
AND USE YOUR GARAGE FOR YOUR CAR AGAIN
724-684-2612

6080/AUTOS FOR SALE

2002 HONDA- 38,000 miles, moon roof. Very good condition. $8,200 neg. 724-684-8198.

2005 TAURUS- 4 dr., 16K miles, leather. Extended warranty. $10,900. 724-938-3512

R&M AUTO SALES
724-929-6900

1996 BUICK Skylark, V6, 4 dr. $2,995.

2000 FORD Focus, 4 cyl., auto, 4 dr. $4,300.

1996 FORD Taurus Station Wagon, V6, auto, high miles. Looks & runs good. $1,500.

1998 CHEVY Malibu, V6, 4 door. $2,500.

2001 OLDS Alero loaded w/options. $5,500.

1995 MERCURY Sable, V6, auto, 4 dr. $1,795.

1998 FORD Explorer XLT, V6, 4 dr. $4,200.

1997 FORD Explorer, V6, AWD. $3,995

1999 PONTIAC Grand AM SE, 2 door, 4 cyl., auto, CD player. $3,995.

BUY IT! SELL IT! FIND IT! ONLY IN THE CLASSIFIEDS TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

LOOKING FOR A FRIEND? CHECK THE PET DIRECTORY. CLASSIFIEDS WORK! TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

6080/AUTOS FOR SALE

2006 CHEVY COBALT-25K, black. $10,000. Leave message at 724-366-0656

CASH FOR SCRAP CARS
C&M AUTO
MONONGAHELA
FREE PICK-UP
Paying $100 to $125
724-258-3553
1-800-954-3553

6100/WANTED TO BUY

JUNK CARS, TRUCKS & VANS
Wanted to Buy
-- $75 & Up --
Free Towing
SALVAGE 1
724-263-3755

LOSKO'S AUTO SALVAGE
Buying Junk & Wrecked Cars & Trucks
Selling Parts
Free Towing
724-785-7760

6080/AUTOS FOR SALE

ATTENTION REALTORS!
Feature your "OPEN HOUSES" in The Valley Independent with a 3-Day Advertising Campaign
CLOSE THE DEAL!

Block Size: 2x2"
Mail or Email Photos:
Composing@tribweb.com

For More Details Call:
Sharri Todd 724-684-2613 stodd@tribweb.com
(or) Michele Conte 724-684-2612 mconte@tribweb.com
(or) Tammy Lenhart 724-684-2618 tlenhart@tribweb.com

SOLOMON
Ford

Jim Hornbeck SERVICE MGR.
Bob Guido PARTS MANAGER
Jim and Bob want to see you!
• 55 YEARS OF FORD EXPERIENCE
• NO SERVICE APPOINTMENT NECESSARY
• IF WE DON'T HAVE YOUR FORD PART IN STOCK...WE'LL HAVE IT THE NEXT DAY
• STOP IN TODAY JUST TO SAY "HELLO" AND RECEIVE A FREE GIFT
• ONLY 10 MINUTES FROM THE MON VALLEY
CENTERVILLE EXIT • RTS. 40 & 43
724-785-5500

6080/AUTOS FOR SALE | 6080/AUTOS FOR SALE | 6080/AUTOS FOR SALE | 6080/AUTOS FOR SALE | 6080/AUTOS FOR SALE | 6080/AUTOS FOR SALE | 5310/GARAGE/YARD SALES

Gerry Raymond's
CHRYSLER Jeep DODGE

HOURS: MON., TUE. & THURS., 9 TO 9 WED. 9 TO 6, FRI. AND SAT. 9 TO 5
724-379-7300
Route 51 • Rostraver, PA
(Located across from Brunswick Lanes)

DIRECT FROM THE FACTORY
20 PLUS 2007 MODELS WITH 8 YEARS OR 80,000 MILE WARRANTY.
BANKS ARE STANDING BY TO FINANCE YOU ON THE SPOT. DON'T MISS THIS SPECIAL EVENT.
MUST SEE!!

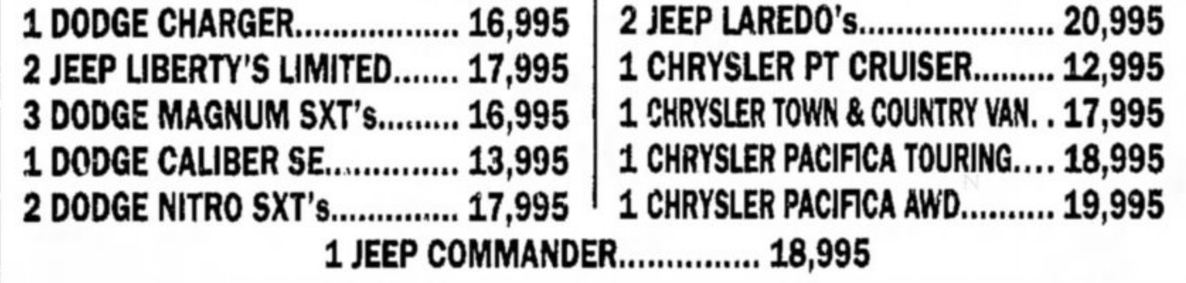
2 JEEP WRANGLER 4X4's	18,995	1 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN	16,995
1 DODGE CALIBER RT	16,995	1 CHRYSLER 300C HEMI AWD	23,995
1 DODGE CHARGER	16,995	2 JEEP LAREDO's	20,995
2 JEEP LIBERTY'S LIMITED	17,995	1 CHRYSLER PT CRUISER	12,995
3 DODGE MAGNUM SXT's	16,995	1 CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY VAN	17,995
1 DODGE CALIBER SE	13,995	1 CHRYSLER PACIFICA TOURING	18,995
2 DODGE NITRO SXT's	17,995	1 CHRYSLER PACIFICA AWD	19,995

1 JEEP COMMANDER 18,995

ALL NEW 2007 & 2008's IN STOCK WILL BE AT FACTORY INVOICE, LESS ANY REBATES
FOR 5 DAYS ONLY
(FEB. 25TH THRU FEB. 29TH)

NEW 2008 SUBARU IMPREZA 2.5i, 8JB #8206
NEW 2008 SUBARU FORESTER 2.5X, 8FB #8036
NEW 2008 SUBARU LEGACY 2.5i SPECIAL EDITION, 8AC #8236
NEW 2008 SUBARU OUTBACK 8D8 #8010

HIGH PRICE GIVEN FOR TRADE-INS!!

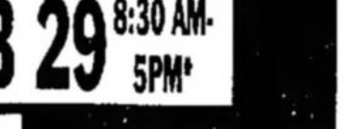


0% Plus Rebates On 08's, Special Rates & Rebates Available Up To 72 Months, On CHRYSLER, DODGE, JEEP (Select Models Only)
0% 60 MONTHS ON ALL 2008 RAM TRUCKS LIFETIME

FACTORY DEMAND
IMMEDIATE LIQUIDATION
New vehicle inventories must be LIQUIDATED to evolve the TREGEMBO Dealership!
The factory has demanded immediate action.
They have allowed us to lower every new vehicle's price, across the board, in order to clear additional lot space for A NEW CONCEPT IN CAR BUYING, WHICH WILL BE ANNOUNCED SOON!

TUES • FEB 26 8:30 AM-7PM*
THURS • FEB 28 8:30 AM-7PM*
WED • FEB 27 8:30 AM-5PM*
FRI • FEB 29 8:30 AM-5PM*
SAT 9:00 AM - 2PM* *or by appointment

This is not a gimmick. It is an immediate action ordered by the factory. If you are planning to purchase a new vehicle, this may be your lucky day. Our profit margins are next to nothing. Our only concern is to clear out our new & used inventory.
BARRY'S BONUS: GIANT PRE-OWNED SALE

PRICES FROM $2,995
ZERO DOWN
TRADES NEEDED
80 CARS IN STOCK

TREGEMBO FORD
QUALITY • VALUE INTEGRITY
www.tregemboford.com
EXIT 32B, INT 70 • BENTLEYVILLE
YOUR #1 DEALER...NOW & FOREVER
Call us today at...
724-239-2200